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# **A NuMAD Model of the Sandia TX-100 Blade**

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## **A NuMAD Model of the Sandia TX-100 Blade**

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#### **Abstract**

This report provides basic documentation of information used to create a TX-100 finite element model using NuMAD. The model is intended for use as a structural model. Use of this model for aerodynamic analyses is to be performed with caution. The TX-100 blade was designed to demonstrate the use of bend-twist coupled behavior for fatigue loads alleviation in a wind turbine blade. Refer to the References at the end of this report for full and in-depth information on the TX-100 blade project.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The authors thank the DOE Wind and Water Power Program for the support that was required to produce a blade model and blade modeling approach such as is documented in this report.

Acknowledgement of the teams who executed the Sandia blade programs of the early 2000's is needed. These are the experts who were involved in the design, manufacture, test and documentation of the CX-100, TX-100 and BSDS blade programs: Derek Berry and Steve Nolet of TPI Composites; Dayton Griffin of DNV; Mike Zuteck of MDZ Consulting; Case van Dam of UC-Davis; Kevin Jackson of Dynamic Design; Tom Ashwill, Dale Berg, Henry Dodd, Mark Rumsey, Herb Sutherland, Paul Veers, Jose Zayas of Sandia National Laboratories.

The authors thank Tyler Bushnell, Sandia National Laboratories engineering student employee, for his work in pulling together the references and documentation to produce this report.



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### **FIGURES**



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### **NOMENCLATURE**

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### **MODELING APPROACH**

<span id="page-8-0"></span>NuMAD<sup>1</sup> is a MATLAB<sup>2</sup>-based tool developed at Sandia to provide an intuitive interface for defining the outer geometry, shear web locations, materials and stacks, and stack placement in wind turbine blades. The output from NuMAD is a sequence of  $ANSYS<sup>3</sup>$  APDL commands used to create the finite element model in ANSYS. Once the model is created, various analyses are used to understand the strength and response of the blade to given loads.

The TX-100 and the CX-100 are the same shape. The CX-100 NuMAD model was used as a starting point for this TX-100 model. See Reference [4] for information on the CX-100 model.

<span id="page-8-5"></span><span id="page-8-4"></span><span id="page-8-3"></span>The CX/TX model is based primarily on the intended design of the blade. Layup drawings are available as References [5,6,7]. Some material locations were obtained more accurately by actual measurements of a manufactured blade.

This model has not been calibrated to match blade test data. Due to possible small discrepancies in design versus manufacture, the model represents the intended blade design, but not necessarily the manufactured blade. For example, the weight of the blade model is computed to be lower than the actual blade weights.

The model described by this report is meant as a starting point for a validation project or as a tool that can be used for research and engineering studies of blades.

#### <span id="page-8-1"></span>**Blade Geometry**

The geometry of the blade is based on the ERS-100 blade. There were modifications to the root and the tip of the ERS-100 blade, but no major changes in airfoil shapes were made. The S821, S819, and S820 are used, respectively, for the inboard region (21% to 40%), 70%, and 95% radius<sup>i</sup>.

<span id="page-8-2"></span>Detailed information on the evolution of the CX-100 blade root and airfoils is found in Reference [8].

To validate the drawings, measurements were made on a TX-100 blade, and adjustments in the model were made to reflect the blade measurements.

 $\overline{a}$ <sup>i</sup> Coordinates for S-series airfoils are publicly available through the NREL NWTC webpage. Certain airfoils are patented and may be licensed through NREL. More information on patents and commercial licensing can be found at the following URL:<http://wind.nrel.gov/airfoils/AirfoilLicensing.html>

<span id="page-9-2"></span>

Station $(mm)^8$	1/L (%) <sup>8</sup>	Chord $(m)^8$	Twist $(\text{deg})^8$	Chord length represented in model*
200	9.4	0.356	29.6	
600	13.5	0.338	24.8	
1000	17.6	0.569	20.8	
1400	21.7	0.860	17.5	0.772
1800	25.8	1.033	14.7	1.035
2200	30.0	0.969	12.4	
3200	40.3	0.833	8.3	
4200	50.6	0.705	5.8	
5200	60.9	0.582	4.0	X
6200	71.2	0.463	2.7	0.4758
7200	81.5	0.346	1.4	0.3488
8200	91.8	0.232	0.4	
9000	100.0	0.120	0.0	X

**Table 1: Baseline Planform Dimensions**

\*The chord length in the model largely matches the Baseline Planform Dimensions from Reference [\[8\]](#page-8-2) for blade locations outboard of  $25\%$  span (indicated by X's). The chord length in the model differs slightly from the Baseline Planform Dimensions inboard of 25% span (indicated by as-modeled chord lengths). Blank table entries indicate discrete stations from the Baseline Planform Dimensions table that were not directly included in the blade model.

#### <span id="page-9-0"></span>**Aerodynamic Center**

Aerodynamic center at each station is assumed to be located at  $x/c=0.25$  and 0.50 for airfoil shapes and for circular shapes, respectively. Values are interpolated in the transition between circular section and airfoil section.

#### <span id="page-9-1"></span>**Normalized X-Offset**

Normalized x-offset at each station is assumed to be  $x/c=0.32$  and 0.50 for airfoil shapes and for circular shapes, respectively. Values are interpolated in the transition between circular section and airfoil section.

## <span id="page-10-0"></span>**Model Images**



**Figure 1: TX-100 model as viewed in NuMAD v2.0.** 

<span id="page-10-1"></span>

<span id="page-10-2"></span>**Figure 2: TX-100 blade model in ANSYS.** 

#### **MATERIALS**

<span id="page-12-0"></span>There are six materials used in the blade. Table 2 contains design values for each of these materials, which are reflected in the model.

<span id="page-12-1"></span>

	C <sub>260</sub>	C520	<b>Seartax</b> Carbon triax	<b>DBM</b> 1208	<b>DBM</b> 1708	<b>Balsa</b>	Gel Coat	075oz Mat
Ex (GPa)	37.30	37.30	73.85	9.58	9.58	0.120	3.44	7.58
Ey (GPa)	7.60	7.60	6.82	9.58	9.58	0.120	3.44	7.58
<b>Gxy</b> (GPa)	6.890	6.890	3.320	6.89	6.89	0.020	1.38	4.00
$v_{xy}$	0.31	0.31	0.25	0.39	0.39	0.3	0.3	0.3
$\mathbf{P}$ (g/cm3)	1.874	1.874	1.685	1.814	1.814	0.023	1.23	1.687
<b>Ply</b> <b>Thickness</b>	0.66	1.32	.000625	0.00087	0.00038	Varies	.00051	.00033

**Table 2: Summary of material properties** 

There are twenty-five material composite defined by these six materials that define all areas of the model. Naming conventions are identified in Table 3.

<span id="page-12-2"></span>



The hybrid triaxial fabric used in the layup drawings has been reproduced in the model as a layer of Seartax Carbon triax sandwiched between two thin (1.02 mm) layers of  $\pm$ 45° offset C520. This is done to reproduce similar qualities to the material used on the built blade.

<span id="page-13-6"></span>Balsa thicknesses were compared with measurements on the real blade, and the measured thickness of balsa is used in the model. The difference is described in [Table 4.](#page-13-6)



#### **Table 4: Balsa thickness adjustments to match measured thicknesses**

#### <span id="page-13-0"></span>**Measured Material Properties**

Mechanical tests were performed in order to determine the as-built mechanical material properties for the blade materials. The test-derived values have not been included in the model here, but the results of those tests are included in this report as Appendix A.

#### <span id="page-13-1"></span>**Material Layup**

Drawings for manufacture of this blade are available as References [\[5](#page-8-3)[,6](#page-8-4)[,7\]](#page-8-5) of this report.

The model is based primarily on these drawings but is supplemented with actual measurements of a manufactured blade.

### <span id="page-13-2"></span>**Shear Web**

<span id="page-13-7"></span>The shear web has a very simple material layup that is shown in Table 5.



#### **Table 5: Shear Web Material Definition**

#### <span id="page-13-3"></span>**Blade Root Hardware**

Blade root hardware is not included in this model of the TX-100 blade.

## <span id="page-13-4"></span>**Blade Root**

The material layup drawings call for the root to taper off from over forty layers to about eight. The layers come in blocks, so the model reflects three critical material changes during the taper, at 0.236 m, 0.326m, 0.498 m, and 0.638 m from root. These stations have simplified material layers that equals the summation of layer thicknesses in the actual blade.

## <span id="page-13-5"></span>**Angled Transition**

The TX-100 blade features an angled material transition that runs at 20° across the blade. At this transition, the (so called) 1/2' balsa core changes to a 3/8' balsa core. The layer of DBM1708

also changes to the hybrid carbon triaxial fabric, placed at 20° offset. The two inch transitional area has DBM1708 overlapping the carbon triaxial fabric, and has a 1/2' balsa core. The transitional area can be seen as the overlap of DBM1708 over the carbon layer in Figure 3.



<span id="page-14-2"></span>**Figure 3: The lower DBM1708 layer overlap marks the transitional area of the blade.** 

## <span id="page-14-0"></span>**Spar Cap**

The spar cap begins at the root, and continues through all of the root ply-drops before thinning, and then tapering off to a point at the station 4.611 m from the root. The diagram of the spar cap which was reported as being the 'as built' diagram was different from the actual measurements made on the blade sections, so the model reflects a spar cap that is the mean between the two. The shape and definitions of the spar cap used in the model can be seen in [Figure 4.](#page-14-3)



**Figure 4: The spar cap shape and size.** 

## <span id="page-14-3"></span><span id="page-14-1"></span>**DBM1208 Butt Joint**

There are two strips of DBM1208 that sandwich both layers of carbon triaxial fabric along a seam in the outboard sections of the blade. This seam is due to the thickness of the carbon fabric being 1270 mm, and not being able to cover the entire blade in one sweep. As seen in Figure 5, one layer is 4' and the other is 6', which creates two regions where only one layer exists  $(1x)$ , and one region where both layers overlap  $(2x)$ . These regions are reflected as accurately as possible in the model.



**Figure 5: Butt-Joint Detail** 

#### <span id="page-15-2"></span><span id="page-15-0"></span>**Defining Material Locations**

Excel was used to manage algorithms for finding crucial material division points on the blade skin. First, the blade outline was plotted. Lines were then plotted to represent where material changes would occur, and the intersections of these lines would dictate where a new station would need to be made. Finally, each material division point was placed.

The downfall to this method is that in the TX-100 blade layup drawings have many definitions based on surface distance (i.e. where the leading and trailing edge balsa begins). This means that using the 'chord %' definition is a close approximation, and is off in a few spots, especially near the leading and trailing edges. To offset some of errors that occur due to the approximation, the model's leading edge uses measured surface distances, and are correct to drawing. This, however, required an iterative approach to solving material intersects, and may cause some uneven lines in the model.

### <span id="page-15-1"></span>**Leading Edge Alterations**

The leading edge has some alterations to the material to avoid shell element errors in ANSYS. Leading edge material composites were renamed with a modifying tag: " $x10$ ". The modification indicates that the 'strip' of DBM1708 in that composite was made ten times as strong, stiff, and dense, and one tenth the thickness. This modification has been done in small areas around the joints, and not the entire leading edge.

### **BLADE MODEL ARCHIVE FILES**

#### <span id="page-16-1"></span><span id="page-16-0"></span>**NuMAD Project Files**

The following files are located in the TX-100 blade model folder, *TX100\_v1.0:*

#### <span id="page-16-2"></span>*TX100\_v1.0.nmd*

The NuMAD blade model data file. This file is for use with NuMAD v2.0.

#### <span id="page-16-3"></span>*MatDBsi.txt*

The NuMAD material data file.

#### <span id="page-16-4"></span>*shell7.src*

Output from NuMAD. This file contains the APDL commands that are used directly in ANSYS to create the TX-100 shell element model using the command string "/INPUT,shell7,src" at the ANSYS command input.

#### <span id="page-16-5"></span>*zAirfoil.mac, zFlatback.mac, zSmoothe.mac*

These are ANSYS macro files that are required to execute the commands found in the *shell7.src* file. These macros must remain in the same folder as the shell7 file when the ANSYS input execution is performed.

## <span id="page-17-0"></span>**'Airfoils' Folder**

Following is a list of the airfoil shape files found in the TX-100 *airfoils* folder:



#### **EXAMPLE ANALYSES**

<span id="page-18-0"></span>Following are results from basic analyses. These results can be used as a baseline for comparison if the user needs to check the validity of their model against the original archive files.

#### <span id="page-18-1"></span>**Mesh Size**

The global element size (AESIZE setting in ANSYS) is set to 0.04 meters.

#### <span id="page-18-2"></span>**Model Mass**

The overall model mass is 129.12 kg, as calculated by ANSYS. The spanwise location of the blade center of mass is at 2.2443 meters.

Based on actual measurements of the first series of production blades<sup>9</sup>, the weight of the average as-built TX-100 blade is 163.7 kg and the spanwise location of the blade center of mass is at 2.339 meters.

### <span id="page-18-3"></span>**Modal Analysis**

<span id="page-18-5"></span>A cantilevered modal analysis of the TX-100 ANSYS model is performed. The Block Lanczos solver is used to find six modes.



#### **Table 6: Results from an ANSYS modal analysis.**

### <span id="page-18-4"></span>**Static Analysis**

A cantilevered static analysis was performed on the TX-100 ANSYS model, using a flapwise (tdirection) 1000 N pull on the tip of the blade. Results were processed using the material coordinate system (RSYS,SOLU) and mid-thickness results (SHELL, MIDDLE). Shown is the elastic strain in the material x-direction, or blade spanwise direction. Maximum tip displacement computed with this analysis is 1.66051 meters.



<span id="page-19-0"></span>**Figure 6: A plot of the composite material x-direction strain resulting from a static analysis of the TX-100 blade; view of HP surface is shown.** 

## <span id="page-20-0"></span>**PreComp Analysis**

NuMAD v2.0 provides the capability to use  $PreComp<sup>10</sup>$  to compute sectional properties of the blade based on the information contained in the NuMAD blade model. Following are the results of those analyses:





<span id="page-21-0"></span>**Figure 7: Section properties computed using PreComp; parameters definitions are consistent with FAST blade input file inputs.** 

## <span id="page-22-0"></span>**BPE Analysis**

BPE is an approach used to compute equivalent section properties of the three-dimensional blade model using an inverse approach<sup>11</sup>. Following are the blade cross section property distributions computed using BPE:





<span id="page-23-0"></span>**Figure 8: Equivalent section properties computed using BPE; parameters definitions are consistent with FAST blade input file inputs.** 

### **ADDITIONAL TX-100 BLADE RESOURCES**

<span id="page-24-0"></span>Berry, Derek and Ashwill, T. "TX-100 Manufacturing Final Project Report." Sandia Report SAND2007-6066. Printed November 2007. <http://prod.sandia.gov/techlib/access-control.cgi/2007/076066.pdf>

D. Berry, T. Ashwill "Design of 9-Meter Carbon-Fiberglass Prototype Blades: CX-100 and TX-100" SAND07-0201

<http://prod.sandia.gov/techlib/access-control.cgi/2007/070201.pdf>

J.R. Zayas, P.L. Jones, A. Holman "CX-100 and TX-100 Blade Field Tests" SAND05-7454 <http://prod.sandia.gov/techlib/access-control.cgi/2005/057454.pdf>

J. Paquette, J. van Dam and S. Hughes. "Structural Testing of 9 m Carbon Fiber Wind Turbine Research Blades." Conference Paper NREL/CP-500-40985. January 2007. <http://www.nrel.gov/wind/pdfs/40985.pdf>

D. Todd Griffith, Gregory Smith, Miguel Casias, Sarah Reese, and Todd W. Simmermacher. "Modal Testing of the TX-100 Wind Turbine Blade." Sandia Report SAND2005-6454. Printed March 2006.

<http://prod.sandia.gov/techlib/access-control.cgi/2005/056454.pdf>

#### **CITED REFERENCES**

- <span id="page-24-1"></span><sup>1</sup> Jonathan C. Berg and Brian R. Resor, "Numerical Manufacturing And Design Tool (NuMAD) v2.0) for Wind Turbine Blades: User's Guide." Sandia National Laboratories Report SAND2012-7028. [http://energy.sandia.gov/?page\\_id=2238](http://energy.sandia.gov/?page_id=2238)
- <sup>2</sup> Mathworks Matlab. Natick, Massachusetts. <https://www.mathworks.com/>
- <sup>3</sup> ANSYS Inc., Canonsburg, PA 15317, [http://www.ansys.com](http://www.ansys.com/)
- <sup>4</sup> Paquette, J and Resor, B. "A NuMAD Model of the Sandia CX-100 Blade." Sandia National Laboratories Report, SAND2012-9273.
- <sup>5</sup> TX-100 9 Meter Windblade: Laminate Schedule High Pressure (HP) Skin Rev A. SAND2012-7111P. SAND2012-7111P\_Lam\_TX100\_HP\_RevA.pdf
- 6 TX-100 9 Meter Windblade: Laminate Schedule Low Pressure (LP) Skin Rev A. SAND2012- 7112P. SAND2012-7112P\_Lam\_TX100\_LP\_RevA.pdf
- 7 TX-100 9 Meter Windblade: Laminate Schedule Shear Web Rev A. SAND2012-7113P. SAND2012-7113P\_Lam\_TX100\_SW\_RevA.pdf
- <sup>8</sup> D. Berry, T. Ashwill "Design of 9-Meter Carbon-Fiberglass Prototype Blades: CX-100 and TX-100" SAND07-0201 [http://infoserve.sandia.gov/sand\\_doc/2007/070201.pdf](http://infoserve.sandia.gov/sand_doc/2007/070201.pdf)
- <sup>9</sup> D. Berry, T. Ashwill "CX-100 Manufacturing Final Project Report" SAND07-6065 <http://windpower.sandia.gov/other/076065.pdf>
- <sup>10</sup> NWTC Design Codes (PreComp by Rick Damiani). [http://wind.nrel.gov/designcodes/](http://wind.nrel.gov/designcodes/%20preprocessors/precomp/)  [preprocessors/precomp/.](http://wind.nrel.gov/designcodes/%20preprocessors/precomp/) Last modified 28-June-2012; accessed 28-June-2012.
- <sup>11</sup> Malcolm, D. J. & Laird, D. L. Extraction of Equivalent Beam Properties from Blade Models. *Wind Energy*, 2007, 10, 135-137.

### <span id="page-26-0"></span>**APPENDIX A: MEASUREMENT OF AS-BUILT BLADE MATERIAL PROPERTIES**

Modern wind turbine blades are composed of composite materials. Normally, composite material properties are found either by micromechanics and laminate theory calculations, or from conducting experiments on samples made exclusively for testing purposes. However, wind turbine blades are commonly manufactured by resin transfer processes and thus, have some uncertainty associated with the material properties in their as-manufactured form. To address this problem, testing was conducted on samples that were cut directly from three, 9-meter wind turbine blades. The coupons were selected from different areas of the blade to allow for backcalculation of the properties of the individual materials contained within the samples. Mass and stiffness properties were then obtained by measuring and weighing the specimens and by conducting simple mechanical tests.

#### <span id="page-26-1"></span>**Specimen Preparation**

The specimen set consisted of 5-in. by 1-in. samples that were cut from different areas of the blades. The locations were selected such that an adequate number of combinations of lamina would exist to solve for the unknown thickness, density, and elastic properties of each lamina. The specimens were outfitted with bi-axial rosette strain gages bonded front and back. Eight layup configurations in total were tested with three samples from each lay-up. These configurations included both longitudinal and transverse fiber orientations for the mostly unidirectional materials, while quasi-isotropy was assumed for chopped and biaxial materials. The samples were thoroughly measured and weighed for later geometry and density calculations.

<span id="page-26-2"></span>

**Figure 9: Blade sections after removing samples. From left to right: BSDS, TX-100 and CX-100 blades.** 



**Figure 10: Instrumented test coupons.** 

#### <span id="page-27-1"></span><span id="page-27-0"></span>**Mechanical Testing**

Mechanical testing of the samples was conducted using both uniaxial and, in some cases, 3-point bending tests as some of the specimens had too much curvature to grip and test accurately with a uniaxial test. For the uniaxial tests, the grip length was 1-in. on each end, leaving 3-in. of gage section. The samples were cycled twice at 6 minutes per cycle, and were tested to 5000 microstrain to determine a large range of stress-strain response while avoiding breakage. The data was collected at 2 Hz.

<span id="page-27-2"></span>

**Figure 11: Uniaxial (left) and 3-point bending (right) testing configurations.**



**Figure 12: Typical stress-strain results from test specimens.**

#### **Material Property Calculation**

Classical Lamination Theory combined with experimental results was used to predict material properties, while data from various sources was used as check on calculations. The laminate thickness and weight of each specimen were measured directly. The results were then used to back-calculate lamina density and thickness using rule of mixtures. Calculation of elastic properties was conducted as follows.

The constitutive elastic stress-strain relationship for a lamina is given by

$$
\{\sigma\}=[Q]\{\epsilon\}
$$

where the rigidity *Q* is given by

$$
[Q] = \begin{bmatrix} E_{11}/\Delta & v_{12}E_{22}/\Delta & 0 \\ v_{12}E_{22}/\Delta & E_{22}/\Delta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & G_{12} \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \Delta = 1 - v_{12}^2 E_{22}/E_{11}
$$

For lamina fiber angle θ relative to the laminate coordinate system, *Q* can be transformed into the laminate coordinate system through

$$
[\bar{Q}] = [T]^{-1}[Q][R][T][R]^{-1}
$$

where

$$
[T] = \begin{bmatrix} \cos^2(\theta) & \sin^2(\theta) & 2\cos(\theta)\sin(\theta) \\ \sin^2(\theta) & \cos^2(\theta) & -2\cos(\theta)\sin(\theta) \\ -\cos(\theta)\sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta)\sin(\theta) & \cos^2(\theta) - \sin^2(\theta) \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } [R] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}
$$

The laminate force-strain relationship is then given by

$$
\begin{Bmatrix} N_{11} \\ N_{22} \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{12} & A_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \epsilon_{11} \\ \epsilon_{22} \end{Bmatrix} \text{ and } A_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^{N} (\bar{Q}_{ij})_{k} t_{k}
$$

with layer thickness *tk*.

Similarly, the laminate moment-curvature relationship is given by

$$
\begin{Bmatrix} M_{11} \\ M_{22} \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} D_{11} & D_{12} \\ D_{12} & D_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \kappa_{11} \\ \kappa_{22} \end{Bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad D_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^{N} \left( \bar{Q}_{ij} \right)_k \left( t_k \bar{z}_k^2 + \frac{t_k^3}{12} \right)
$$

with layer thickness  $t_k$  and distance from mid-laminate to mid-lamina  $z_k$ .

Using these relationships along with the lamina thickness calculations performed previously, the lamina elastic moduli and Poisson ratio can be back-calculated from the tensile and bending test results.

The resulting layer thickness, density, longitudinal and transverse elastic modulus, and Poisson ratio are shown in Table 1.

<b>Material</b>	Layer <b>Thickness</b> (mm)	<b>Density</b> $(kg/m^3)$	$E_{11}$ (GPa)	$E_{22}$ (GPa)	$V_{12}$	
GelCoat	0.51	1235	4.96	4.96	0.006	
3/4 oz Random Mat Glass*	0.21	2058	15.15	15.15	0.590	
6 oz Woven Glass*	0.13	2076	42.22	42.20	0.857	
DBM-1208 ±45°Glass	0.38	1659	12.42	12.41	0.202	
DBM-1708 ±45°Glass	0.87	1659	11.12	11.12	0.612	
C-260 Unidirectional Glass	0.57	1986	45.77	10.09	0.258	
C-520 Unidirectional Glass	1.13	1986	45.77	10.09	0.302	
<b>SAERTEX Carbon/Glass Triax</b>	0.81	1750	91.99	17.48	0.509	
*Due to very small amounts of this material in the samples tested, these results could have large errors.						

**Table 7: Calculated as-built material properties.**

Material thickness correlates well to predicted values. Material stiffness and density vary significantly from predicted values. Tested unidirectional carbon density is approximately 50% lower than the value used in current model. These variations in values would contribute significantly to results from model analyses and further work would be required to perform a full model calibration and validation exercise using these measured data.

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