MSU Scale-up Research Facility (SURF) Update

THE COMPOSITES

INSTITUTE

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Michigan State University Facilities

Composites Materials & Structure Center, Lansing



7,500 ft² Characterization and Processing Laboratory Over \$5M in Equipment Full-time staff -3 professionals and 2 technicians Composite Vehicle Research Center

Composites Vehicle

Research Center,

Lansing

Supported by TARDEC

- Composite Joining
- Design & Manufacture
- Impact Resistance
- Multi-Functional Composites
- Self-Diagnostic Composites
- Structural Integrity

IACMI SURF Scale-Up Research Facility, Detroit



Full-scale RD&D facility

- Injection Molding
- Compression Molding
- Prepreg
- Tape layup
- HP-RTM





Large-scale prototype & run-at-rate capabilities

Typical Projects

- Prototype development
- Process/materials validation
- Run at rate validation
- Tool tryout

Major Capabilities

- 4000T compression molding
- 3000T injection molding
- Prepreg production
- Twin screw compounding
- HP-RTM (PU & Epoxy)
- Hi-throughput tape-lay-up



New Capability – Multiaxial Tape Lay-up

Multiaxial laminates

- Dry fiber
- Thermosets
- Thermoplastics
- Statement of requirements
 - 48 in x 48 in
 - Multiaxial lay-up
 - At least 6 layers in under 60 sec.





https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hgkopga7u10

Future Capability – Water-Assist IM (Fall 2022)

- Permit hollow sectionsIncreased stiffness
 - Mass reduction
- Reduces cycle time





einseitige Kühlung

zweiseitige Kühlung



Injection molding cell



Component cross section



Multi-functional Smart Structures for Smart vehicles (DOE-VTO) 🥂 🏹 MICHI

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Sponsor: Ford Motor Company Prime Sponsor: DOE Vehicle Technology (FOA)

Start Date: October 1, 2020 Duration: 39 months Funding: \$7,500,000

Partners: Ravago Americas LLC, Purdue University, MSU, Yanfeng Global Automotive Interiors, ORNL

Opportunity: Demonstrate lightweight multifunctional instrument panel/cross-car beam for smart vehicles

Challenge: Development of novel conductive materials, integrated sensors, water-assist IM, robust process improvement through machine-learning

Impact: Key enabling technologies for improved enduser experience in smart vehicles

Approach:

- Novel conductive thermoplastic materials
 - Incorporating recycled
 materials
- Integrated sensors
- Additive manufacturing and tow-placement technologies
- Processing innovations for hollow closed sections



Structural Battery Enclosure (DOE)

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Sponsor: General Motors Prime Sponsor: DOE Vehicle Technology (FOA)

Start Date: October 1, 2020 Duration: 39 months Funding: \$7,500,000

Partners: Coats, Columbia, Continental Structural Plastics, ESI, General Motors, MSU, USC

Opportunity: Enable light weight cost effective advanced composite material solutions for EVs

Challenge: Hybrid material systems (glass/carbon fibers), integral sensors with TFP preforms

Impact: Self health monitoring capability integral to component, high volume (HV) manufacturing for automotive, reduced defects, scrap, cost

Approach:

- Novel Tailored Fiber Placement (TFP) preforms
- Tailored resin distribution / drape for high volume manufacturing
- Development of integral sensors into TFP
- Process advancement including AI/Machine Learning





Representative Coats Preforms

Trimer – HP RTM molding (DOE SBIR)

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Sponsor: Trimer Technologies (via CCS) Prime Sponsor: DOE SBIR/STTR

Start Date: April 1, 2021 Duration: 17 months Funding: \$1,100,000

Partners: Trimer, CCS, OEM

Opportunity: Novel resin technology for thick section composites, exceptional flammability (FST) performance

Challenge: Traditional Epoxy, Polyurethane chemistries not capable, unique high-volume manufacturing at SURF for this material

Impact: low exotherm, fast cycle time with thick section components, SuRF HP RTM capabilities well positioned to support development

Approach:

- HP RTM molding cell upgrade (ventilation)
 - · Upgrade to accommodate PU material systems
- Demonstrate Trimer Technologies novel material system
- OEM leaf spring planned



Notional composite leaf spring for illustration only. (www.mubea.com/en/composite-components)



IACMI/MSU Scale-up Research Facility COMPOSITES **Thank You!**