

Project 3.9 High Speed Layup and Forming of Automotive Composite Components

*Indraneel Page representing the
3.9 Project Team*



OUTLINE

- Project Statement.
- Project Description & Team Members.
- Key Tasks.
- Integration of Performance - Manufacturing Design and Costing.
- Design Optimization
- Process Flow Optimization
- Project Relevance and Impact.

Project Statement

- 60 Second Layup, Forming, and Trimming of a Continuous Fiber Automotive Component for the Mainstream Market.
- **Challenge:**
Current available tape layup systems cannot support high volume automotive manufacturing.
- **Approach:**
Utilize an automotive component design that meets strength and torsional targets (structural requirement's) as a surrogate to collaborate and prove out equipment supplier's concepts to produce a tape lay-up in cycle times of less than 60s via continuous fiber tape lay-up.
- **Impact:**
Enables continuous fiber tape layup technology at automotive volumes to achieve Light weight and energy saving (Fuel efficiency).

Project Description & Team Members

- This project is based on a automotive component that meets strength requirement's for passenger vehicles (Sedan, SUV) using high speed tape lay-up equipment at a cycle time ~ 60 seconds (APV >100K.)
- The automotive component is a large component with composite tape layup utilized strategically to meet strength requirements.
- It will consist of 6 - 14 composite layers in different fiber orientation's (0/90/45/60 etc.)
- Component also includes forming, overmolding and trimming operations.

Project Team:

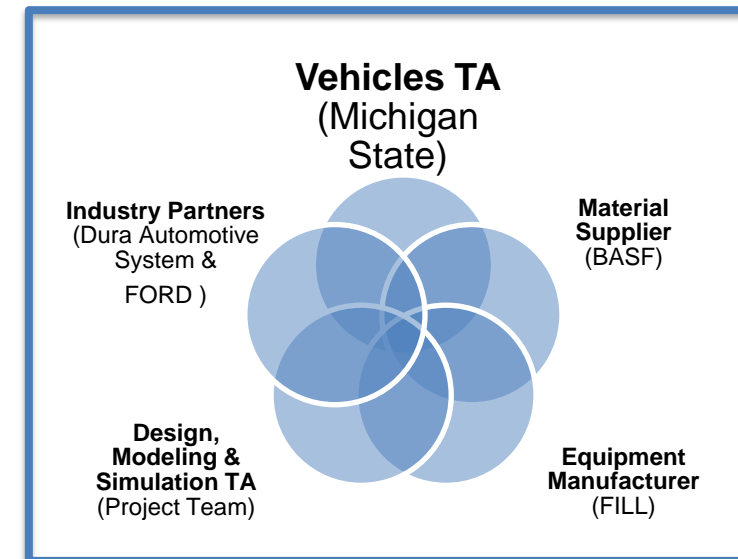
Dura Automotive Systems: Bhanumurthy Veeragandham, Indraneel Page

FORD: Patrick Maloney, Sangram Tamhankar

BASF: Mohamed Bouguetteya, Kipp Grumm

MSU IACMI SuRF: Ray Boeman, Doug Bradley.

Purdue University: Jonathan Goodsell, Michael Bogdanor.



Key Tasks

- Optimize component design based on cost and performance.
- Define scalable layup and consolidation process and produce 2D preforms on prototype equipment.
- Purchase and install tape layup equipment at IACMI/MSU SuRF based on prototype studies, cost, and functionality for future IACMI projects.
- Lay-up, Mold and Trim 20+ Prototype Composite parts at rate (~60s).
- Assemble Composite part and perform static vehicle testing at OEM.

Product Design and Finalization:

Product Design & Validation:

Industry partners identified 2 pilot projects to demonstrate the high volume composite insert molding process and cost evaluation.

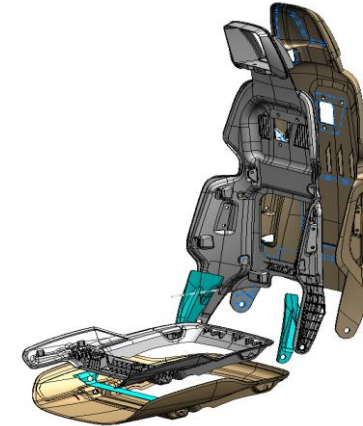
Project A: Rear Package Shelf

- Structure, Safety, environmental and packaging functional component
- Component designed to align with current manufacturing process so that it would be a drop in place for OEM assembly.
- Component not selected as it wasn't able to meet the Cost/ Weight targets selected for the project.



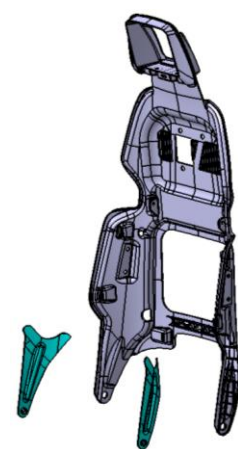
Project B: Composite Seat Design (Ford)

- Project is to conceptualize and engineer a lightweight 1st row seat structure and mechanisms having equivalent performance and accommodations as current traditional 30-way FGen2 seat.
- Structural optimization with unique load path management and cost efficiency are key deliverables for this project.



Composite Seat Components

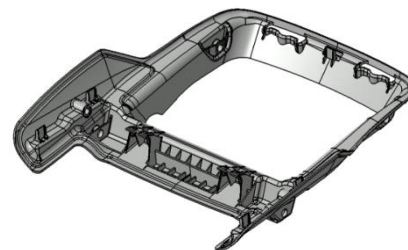
- FORD Featherweight design was used in Project 3.9 as a joint development between Ford Product Development and DURA, BASF and MSU IACMI research organizations.
- Some key highlights vs traditional 30-way seat include
 - 29% Weight Save
 - 28% Part reduction
 - Overall Cost neutral
- For Project 3.9, the components of interest are the composite back structure and cushion pan.
(Seat back inner & outer, Seat Cushion Inner & outer)
- Material used for these structures is BASF Ultratape® and Ultramid® B3ZG10 CR.
(50 % Glass fiber reinforced PA 6 resin)



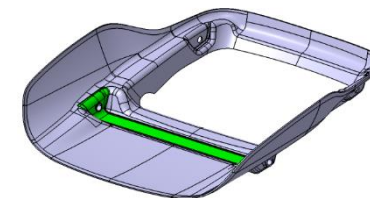
Seat Back Inner



Seat Back Outer



Seat Pan Inner

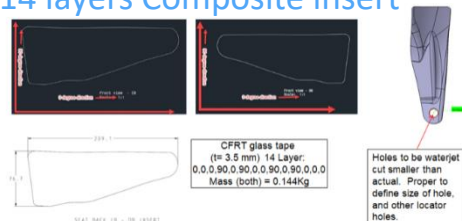


Seat Pan Outer

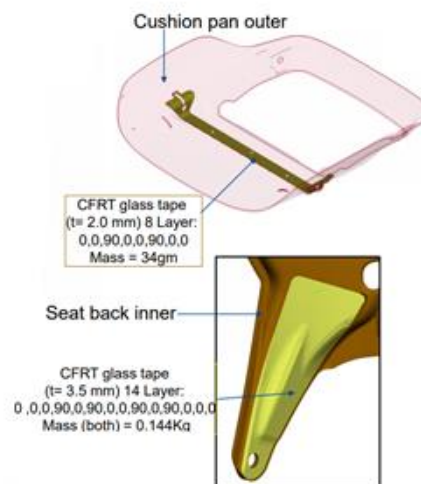
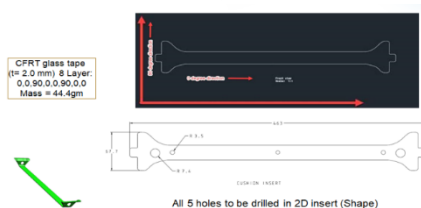
Design Optimization

Insert Design Optimization

14 layers Composite insert



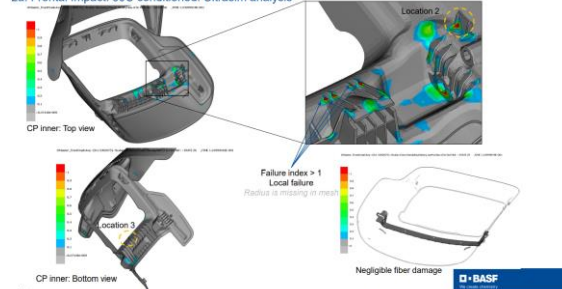
8 Layers Composite insert



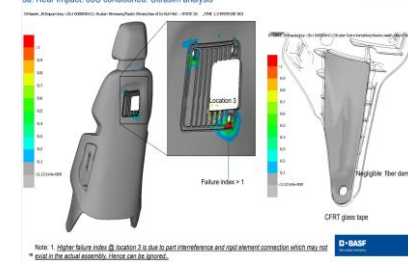
FEA/ CAE Optimization

- FEA analysis was completed at -40°, 23°, 60° C
- Structural cases such as Luggage Retention, Front and Rear Impact were evaluated when comparing to base design.
- Software including LS-DYNA, Moldflow and BASF propriety software Ultrsim® were utilized for analysis

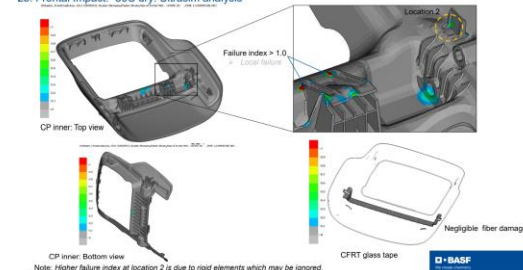
2a. Frontal Impact: 60C conditioned: Ultrsim analysis



3a. Rear Impact: 60C conditioned: Ultrsim analysis



2b. Frontal Impact: -30C dry: Ultrsim analysis

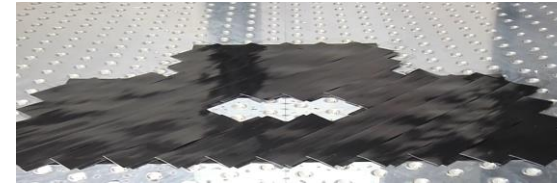
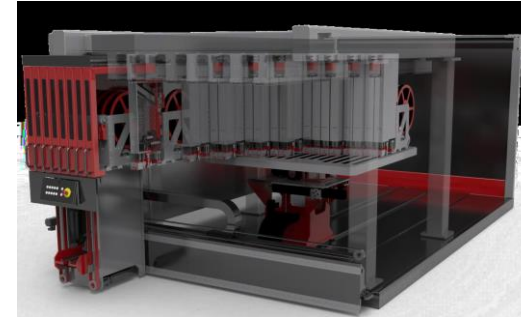


High Speed Layup Equipment selection

- Primary Goal: Selection of High speed multi layer equipment which meets the 60 second cycle time as defined in the project charter.
- Project team went through the exercise of identifying major equipment manufacturers in NA and EU.
- Suppliers that had the advanced technology required were down selected, visited, and prototypes produced to understand each technology in detail
- After detailed evaluation FILL was selected as the supplier of choice based on their technical, sales and support capabilities.
- IACMI has purchased the first FILL layup equipment in NA and it is installed in the MSU SuRF Corktown facility in Detroit MI.

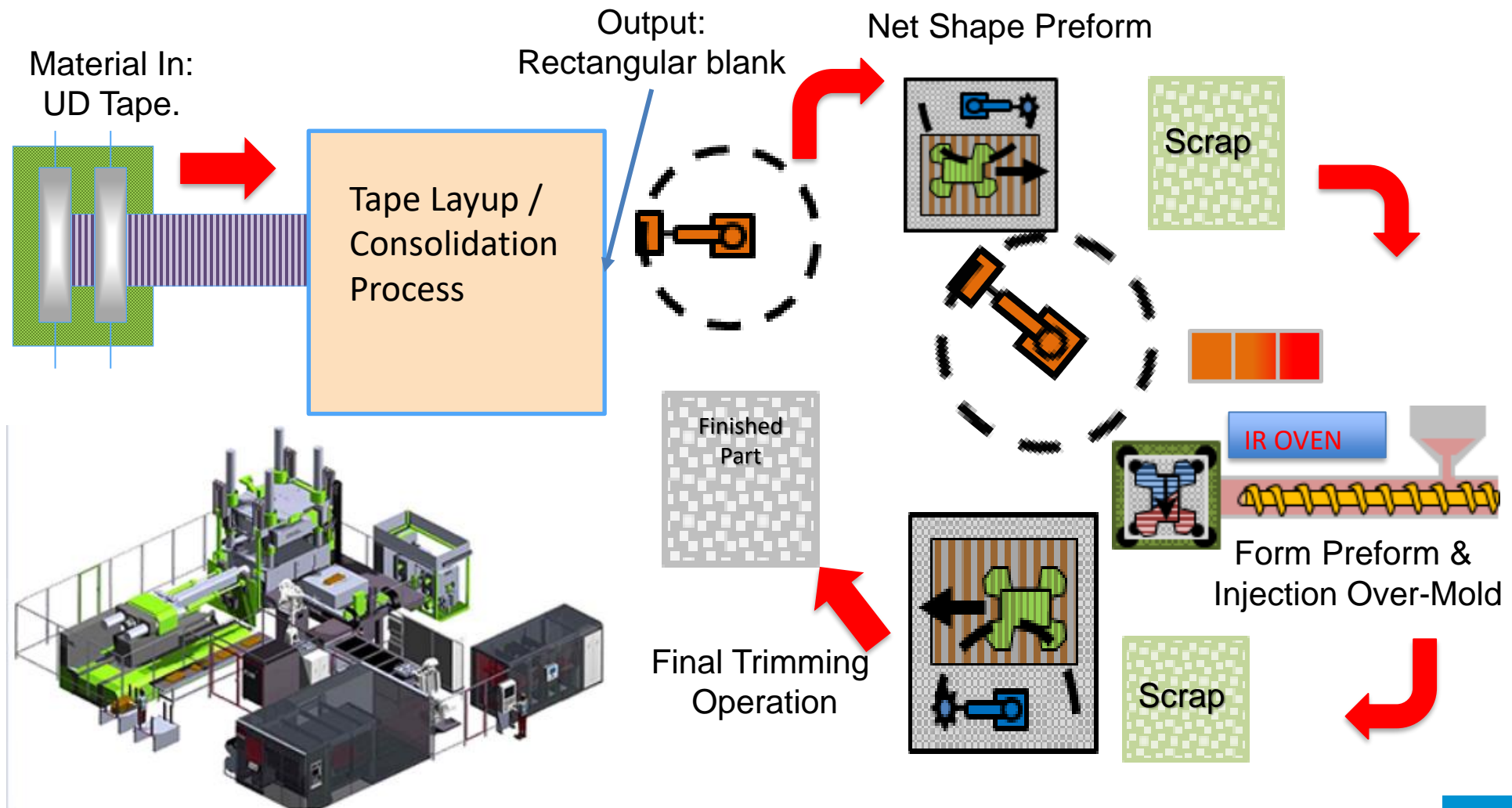


FILL Layup Equipment

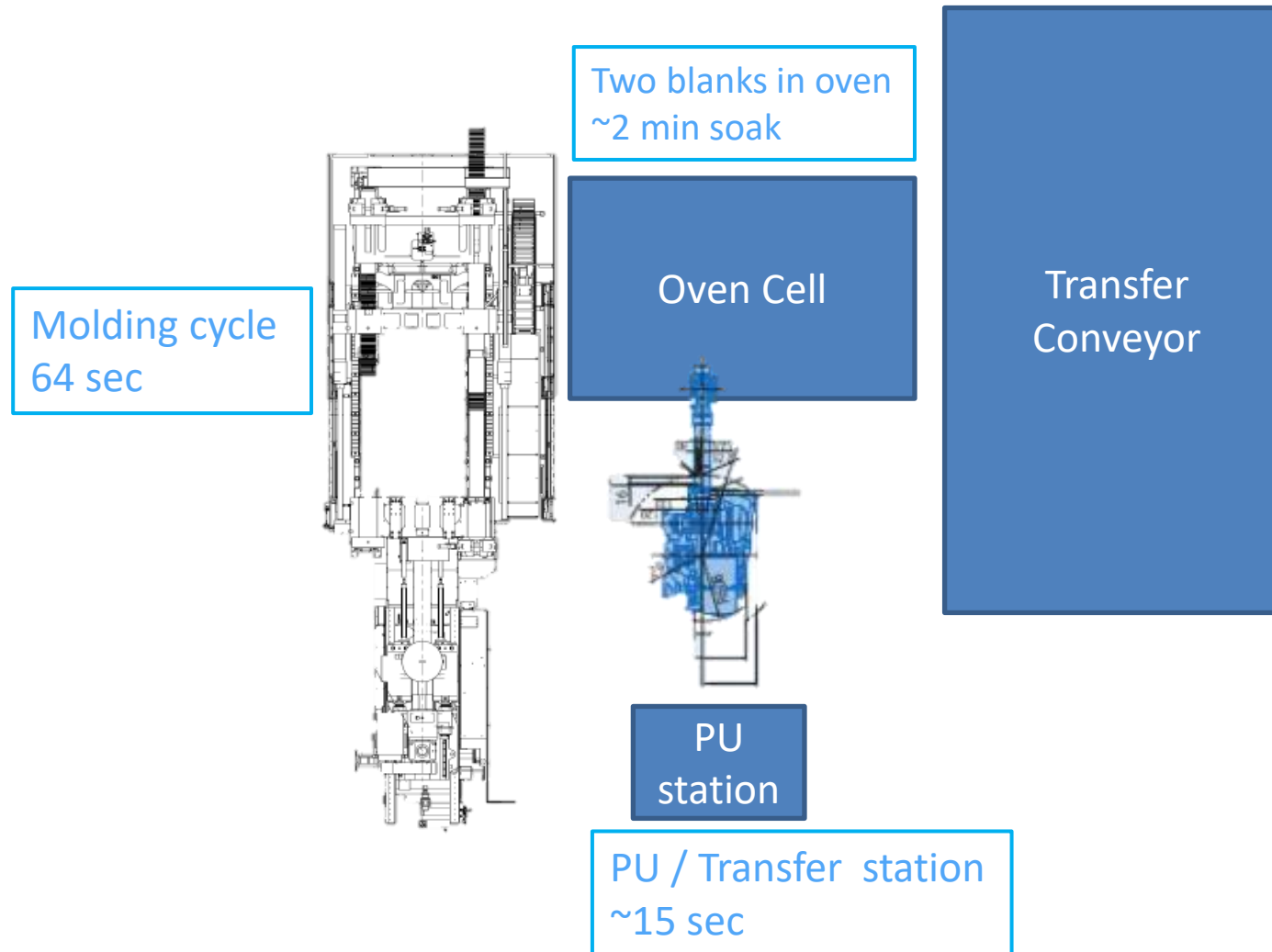


Material: BASF Ultratape®
Laid up on IACMI machine @ Fill parameters
Consolidated: Double belt Press
(Meyer Maschinenfabrik)

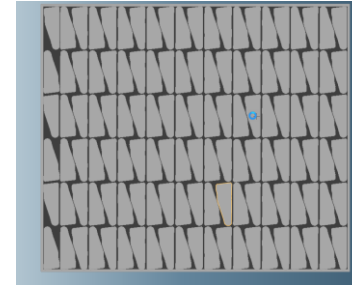
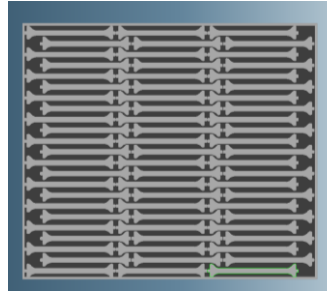
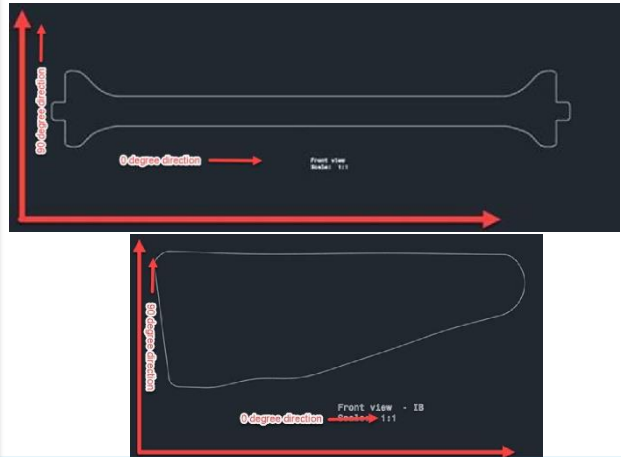
Process flow optimization



SurF floor layout



Prototyping: Water Jet Cutting and 3D Forming



Water Jet Cutting



3D Printed Insert Pre-forming Tools

- Molds 3D-printed at Ford AMC.
- Material: Ultem 1010



Untrimmed preforms



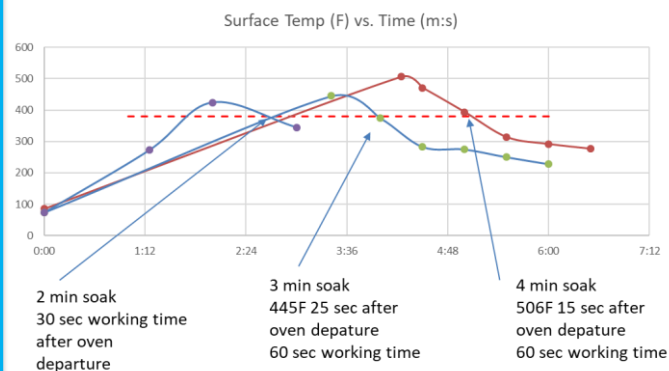
3D Forming

Prototyping: Injection Molding Trials

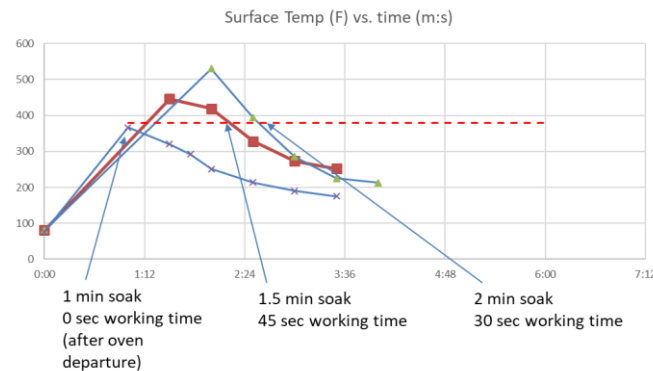


Material & Process Analysis

3.5 mm tape

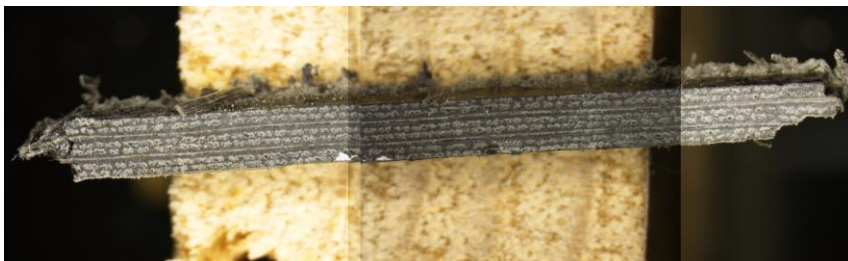


2.0 mm tape



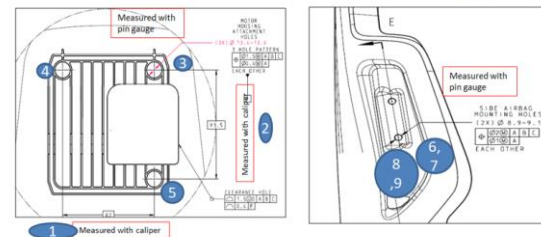
Material:
BASF Ultratape®
Oven: FORD Oven
550F Radiant Heat.

Heat & Soak Analysis



Micrograph Analysis of 8 ply & 14 ply tape

Dimension Measured	Dimension	Tolerance	Tolerance	PUL 100 PARTS OPERATIONAL REPORT 01/01/2015											Upper Limit	Lower Limit
				Part 44	Part 45	Part 42	Part 5	Part 32	Part 37	Part 38	Part 33	Part 39	Median			
1 Distance - Horizontal between Motor Support	62	0.4	0.4	62.04	62.06	62.05	62.02	62.09	62.02	62.06	62.05	62.05	62.05	62.00	0.09	0.05
2 Distance - Vertical between Motor Support	91.5	0.4	0.4	92.22	92.14	91.95	92.25	92.37	92.05	92.07	92.34	92.34	92.33	92.70	0.14	0.33
3 Diameter - Hole 1	13.5	0.1	0.1	13.51	13.59	13.54	13.60	13.41	13.34	13.54	13.46	13.59	13.59	13.75	0.04	0.06
4 Diameter - Hole 2	13.5	0.1	0.1	13.59	13.59	13.62	13.58	13.56	13.59	13.54	13.41	13.42	13.59	13.75	0.09	0.10
5 Diameter - Hole 3	13.5	0.1	0.1	13.56	13.54	13.59	13.54	13.54	13.56	13.54	13.56	13.54	13.56	13.75	0.09	0.09
6 Diameter - Side Air Bag Hole 1	9	0.1	0.1	8.92	8.84	8.91	8.94	8.99	9.02	9.02	9.01	9.02	9.02	9.00	0.06	0.17
7 Diameter - Side Air Bag Hole 2	9	0.1	0.1	8.92	8.84	8.94	8.94	8.97	8.99	8.99	9.08	9.07	9.09	8.98	0.11	0.14
8 Diameter - Side Air Bag Hole 3	9	0.1	0.1	8.99	8.89	8.94	8.99	8.99	9.01	9.02	9.11	9.09	9.07	9.00	0.11	0.11
9 Diameter - Side Air Bag Hole 4	9	0.1	0.1	8.95	8.84	8.94	8.99	8.99	9.04	9.04	9.12	9.07	9.12	9.02	0.10	0.08



Dimensional Measurements

FORD Bonding and Physical Test

Bonding Activity



- Adhesive selection: Acrylic based developmental adhesive (3M)
- Fixtures with clamps at critical locations were designed and developed at FORD.
- Manual application of adhesive on injection molded inscribed lines

Bonding Tear Down Activity

- Rough teardown activity conducted at FORD
- Brut force used to separate bonded parts
- Adhesive Failure observed as expected.



Physical Testing

- FORD has internally developed 4 physical tests for the bonded assemblies and will conduct testing at FORD.
- A Test fixture has been built by FORD to execute the planned tests as per FORD standards and includes Quasi-static loading.
- CAE Analysis and physical testing correlation activity planned for final confirmation of product.

Summary and Next Steps

Summary:

- Project Team 3.9 achieved all outlined project objectives
 - Design and performance of product.
 - Cost Neutral to current base design.
 - Selection & acquisition of High Speed Tape layup equipment supplier.
 - TAKT time: Achieved 60s layup target.
 - Injection overmolding.
 - Assembly (Bonding) of component assembly.

Project Impact:

Commercialization: This project aims to be the catalyst of integrating composite components in mainstream automobiles.

Outcome: Technology for structural composite part is ready for production on a high volume vehicle platform.

Next Steps

- Complete additional Injection molding trials (2D preform) @ MSU IACMI SuRF location.
- FORD Internal Quasi-static testing.
- Correlation between CAE and Testing.
- Identify additional structural applications for technology.

THANK YOU