

# AERONAUTICAL STRUCTURES BY AUTOMATIC LAY-UP WITH THERMOPLASTIC COMPOSITES AND MATERIAL BEHAVIOR

6th International Composites Conferences. Arcachon. 4-6 June 2018



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### **1.1 WHY THERMOPLASTIC IS A KEY TECHNOLOGY?**





### MAIN DRAWBACKS

HIGH MANUFACTURING TEMPERATURE

HIGHER MATERIAL COST THAN THERMOSET

LOW VOLUMEN OF MATERIAL USED IN AERONAUTICAL INDUSTRY

SUPPLIER INTERACTION WITH MANUFACTURER NEEDS





### **1.2 THERMOPLASTIC ROADMAP IN FIDAMC: FROM UNITOW TO MULTITOW HEAD**







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#### AFP/ATL PROCCESSING EQUIPMENT

HEAD IS MOUNTED ON GANTRY STYLE TAPE LAYUP MACHINE WHICH MOVES LONGITUDINALLY ON FIXED RAILS WITH:

- LASER HEAT SOURCE
- CONSOLIDATION/COMPACTION ROLLER IN HOT LINE
- TAPE CUTTER
- TENSION CONTROL
- CONTROL SOFTWARE







### **1.2 THERMOPLASTIC ROADMAP IN FIDAMC: FROM UNITOW TO MULTITOW HEAD**

### **1<sup>ST</sup> Prototype**



LASER DEVICE (FIXED OPTIC)

BUREAU VERITAS





LASER DEVICE (SCANNER)





EXISTING HEAD INSTALLED IN FIDAMC MACHINE ONE-TOW (1/4" OR 1/2")





MULTI-TOW HEAD CONCEPT DEVELOPED WITH MTORRES





### **1.2 THERMOPLASTIC ROADMAP IN FIDAMC: FROM UNITOW TO MULTITOW HEAD**



## NEW CONCEPT OF HEAD: MULTI-TOW (8)

### PROTOTYPE HEAD WITH NEW OPTIC LASER



### **EIGHT TOWS HEAD**







#### **1.3 THERMOPLASTIC ROADMAP IN FIDAMC: EVOLUTION OF THERMOPLASTIC MACHINE AND STRUCTURES**

#### THERMOPLASTIC HEAD EVOLUTION





## 2. FULL SCALE DEMONSTRATORS: WING PANEL AND FUSELAGE SHELLS.

#### THERMOPLASTIC ROADMAP IN FIDAMC: FULL INTEGRATEDSTRUCTURES-TECHNOLOGICAL DEMONSTRATORS



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#### FEASIBILITY DEMONSTRATOR PANEL: PANEL WITH CO-CONSOLIDATED "T" SHAPED STRINGERS









#### **3.1 INTERACTION**





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- $\succ$  Heating diode laser → polymer melting
- ▶ Short time  $\rightarrow$   $\uparrow$  temp.  $\rightarrow$  thermal degradation
- ➤ Adhesion → roughness/pressure/temperature/chain movements
- $\succ$  Cooling → crystallization





## **3. MECHANISMS AND MODELS**

3.2 HEATING







#### **3.2 HEATING**



Heat transferences: Material-material Material-roller

Heat source – power density

Material-tooling Material-air

Variable thermal properties in the material (conductivity, heat capacity...)

The performances of the laminate / part are not only related to the surface heating but with the whole state of the set.

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Layers are subsequently heated by conduction from the upper one.

Controlling variable: temperature at the surface of the substrate/NIP point Internal measurements by using thermocouples / simulation with the information from the upper layer



SIMULATIONS DEVOTED TO KNOW THE INTERNAL STATE ON THE SET, GIVING INFORMATION ABOUT RE-HEATING IN THE DOWNER LAYERS AFFECTING





## 3. MECHANISMS AND MODELS

#### **3.2 HEATING**





Angle (20)

Angle (20)



#### **3.3 CRYSTALLIZATION AND DEGRADATION INTERACTION**



In this manufacturing process - cooling speed is so high. It means that an ~ amorphous structure is obtained. Normally, it is accepted that it is OK when a specific % is reached (defined as a huge range) In the ISC process, many

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- MULTIPLE RE-HEATING STEPS OVER Tg (HIGH SPEED HEATING)
- MAINTENANCE ON A TOOLING WHICH IS NORMALLY OVER Tg

Angle (20)

- APC2/AS4 RAW (90° fiber orientation)

APC2/AS4 RAW @200°C (90° fiber orientation





## **3. MECHANISMS AND MODELS**

#### **3.3 CRYSTALLIZATION AND DEGRADATION INTERACTION**







**3.3 CRYSTALLIZATION AND DEGRADATION INTERACTION** 

### THERMAL DEGRADATION IN THE MATERIAL CAN BE PRODUCED BY OVERHEATING

### FTIR-ATR (PEEK 450G DEGRADATED)

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FIXED LAMINATION PARAMETERS PERMIT TO OBTAIN GOOD QUALITY LAMINATES WITH NO DEGRADATION EFFECTS





4. PEEK/PEKK MATERIAL COMPARISON. RAW MATERIAL SUPPLIERS



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## 4. PEEK/PEKK MATERIAL COMPARISON. RAW MATERIAL SUPPLIERS

### LOOKING FOR ISC GRADE MATERIAL





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## 4. PEEK/PEKK MATERIAL COMPARISON. RAW MATERIAL SUPPLIERS





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## **5. CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES**

- ✓ THERMOPLASTIC COMPOSITE IS A REAL OPPORTUNITY FOR A FASTER PROCESSING, LOWER LIFECYCLE COSTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.
- ✓ JUST NOW, PEEK IS THE MATERIAL WITH THE DEEPER USE IN LASER ASSISTED AFP MACHINES, HIGHER MATURITY HAS BEEN REACHED WITH IT. DATA BASE → MANUFACTURING/MODELS
- ✓ PEKK AND PAEK HAVE PARTICULAR INTEREST AND BOTH ARE A COMPETITIVE OPTION IN AUTOMATED PROCESS.
- ✓ **SIMULATION** AND MODELS PERMIT TO UNDERSTAND THE AUTOMATIC LAY-UP PROCESS.
- ✓ **MATERIAL IMPROVEMENTS** WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE SPEED INCREASE NEEDED TO REACH VALUES OF PRODUCTIVITY CLOSER TO THERMOSETS.

PERSPECTIVES:

- ✓ COOLING NEEDS TO BE CONTROLLED IN ORDER TO ALLOW CRYSTALLIZATION VARIATIONS.
- ✓ ROLLER MATERIAL NEEDS DEEPER RESEARCH WORKS.



### THANK YOU FROM THERMOPLASTIC TEAM



**Diego Saenz** 



**Eduardo Lorenzo** 



Juan Pablo Zarco



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**Rafael Contento** 



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