



Composites  
At  
Sheffield.



## R&D of Advanced Composites and Their Manufacturing Methods

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Industry and Academia Working Together

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## Coking Works in Sheffield: 1990 (after 200 years of mining)



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## Now: Advanced Manufacturing Park



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## AMRC 2013



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# The Hub: Composites At Sheffield

Over 70 academics, researchers and engineers working with around 90 industrial partners



The Composite Systems  
Innovation Centre



AMRC with Boeing  
Composite Centre



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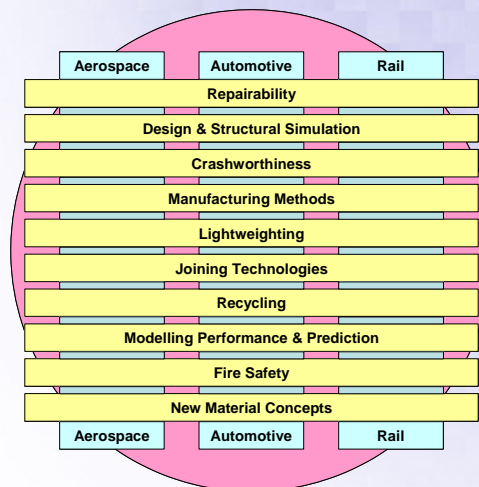


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## Four major themes, more than 80 partners, more than 50 projects

- LEAD: Leading edge advanced design (high-E glass fibre, hybrid systems, nanotechnology)
- SMART (Self-amelioration, self-sensing, NDT and repair)
- MSM: Multi-scale modelling (Dynamic Ansys/LS Dyna + Molecular modelling)
- E-Friend (biopolymers and biocomposites, recycled systems)



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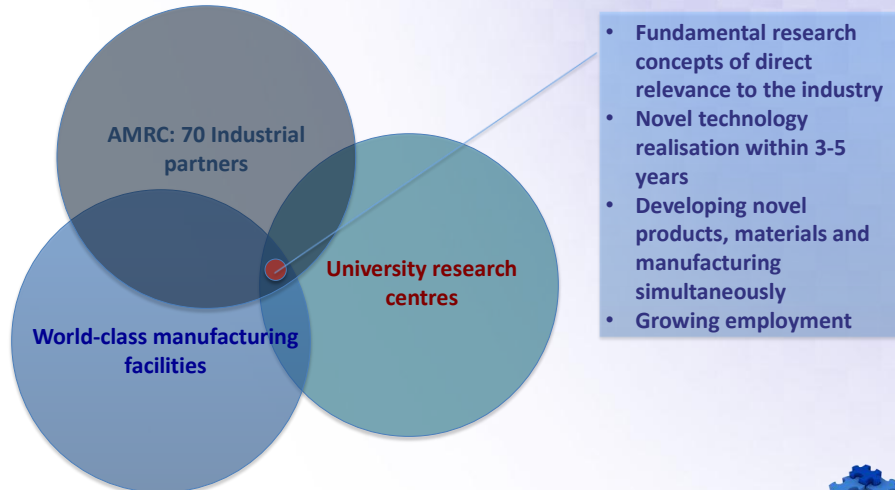




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## New research concepts for cutting edge manufacturing



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## IP versus risks, time, cost and regulations



- £400M investment with £2B impact on industry
- 2010 Boeing International Supplier of the Year

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### Immediate filters:

- Aerospace: currently no loss allowed in structural properties, trade-offs subject to strict regulations
- Improvements to advanced materials should lead to *incremental* improvements in manufacturing methods
- A new technology needs to respond to a current problem
- Research impact  $\propto$  return on investment
- Environmental concerns over reaching the EU and international targets (2020, 2050)

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### Female Radii



### Pad up / Drop off



### Collisions:

- Laminate thickness
- Head Geometry
- Ramp angle  $\theta \geq 22^\circ$
- Staggered ply boundary

### Chamfer



Focus: Core stiffened panel

- Geometry validation
- Core Crush Experiments




6 months



4y integrated wing project


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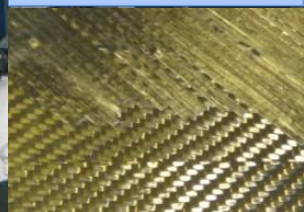


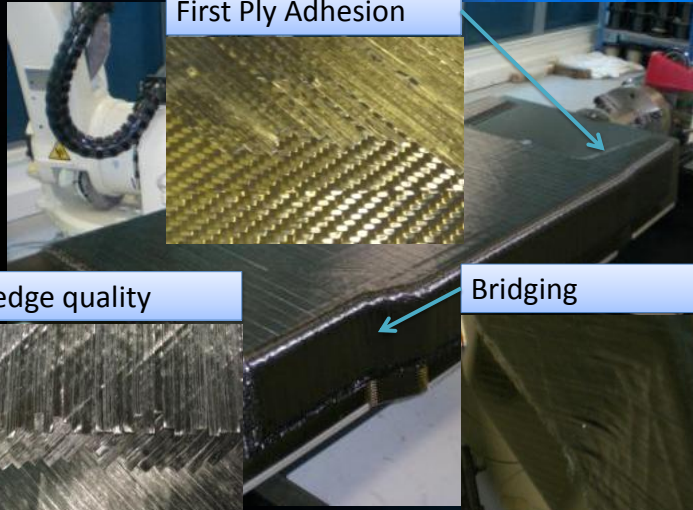
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### Spar




### First Ply Adhesion






### 'Add' edge quality



### Bridging



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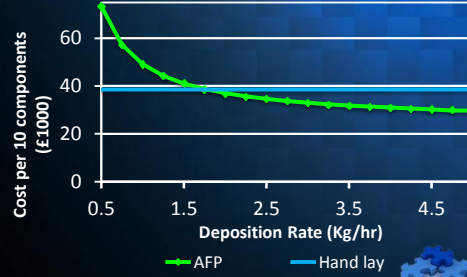
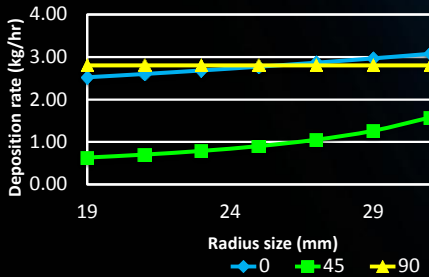
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## Spar

- Overall Deposition rate > 0.5kg/hr
- Peak rate achieved > 1.2 Kg/hr
- Limiting factor - **System Down time**
- Production Capability 2.5kg/hr (< 10% downtime)

Cost Analysis	Raw Material	Ply Collation / Preform	Consolidation / curing
Pro's	Reduce Waste / Scrap	Faster Rate Higher accuracy Reduced labour	Equipment Cost Running cost
Con's	Slitting Cost	Equipment Depreciation Running Cost	Mechanical Properties



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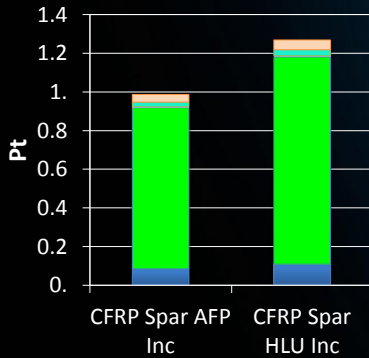
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## LCA



- Fossil fuels
- Minerals
- Land use
- Ecotoxicity
- Ozone layer
- Radiation
- Climate change
- Respiratory inorganics

- Feasible alternative to Hand Layup
- Nearing manufacturing readiness
- Potential to reduce manufacturing cost
- Potential to reduce life cycle emissions
- Successful Use with Out of Autoclave materials

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## Impact

- Reduce system Complexity
  - Refine Head Geometry
  - Shorten Material Feed distance
  - Modify heating system
- ➔
- 50% decrease in down time through new AFP head design
  - Lower scrap % due to the optimised AFP process
  - Cost-effective solution to hand lay-up



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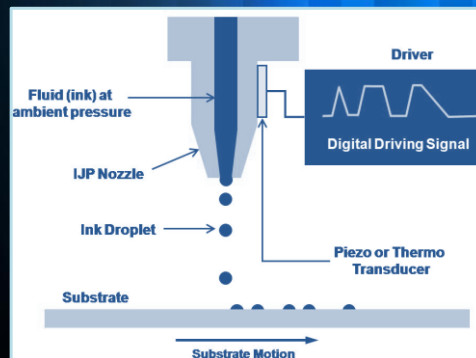


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## Inkjet Printed CFRPs


- Direct write technology (no masks needed)
- Additive technology
- Use droplets of ink emitted from a nozzle to create dot patterns on substrate
- Computer-aided which can pre-define patterns according to requirements
  - Rapid changing between patterns
- Non-contact deposition method (reduces/removes risk of contamination)



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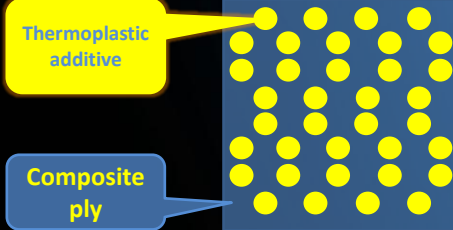
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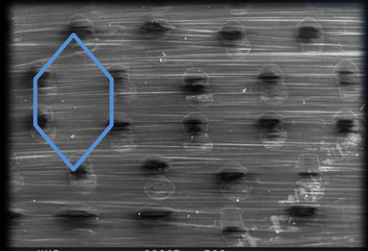
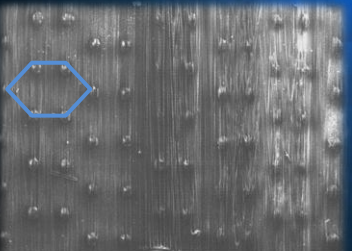
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**Thermoplastic additive**


**Composite ply**

-  Inkjet printing can deposit highly controlled droplets onto substrate
-  Minimum self-ameliorating agent usage
-  Simplified manufacturing process


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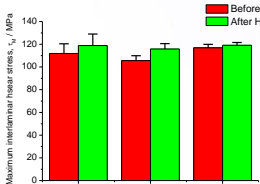
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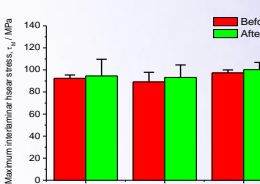
### Interlaminar shear strength

**Undamaged**



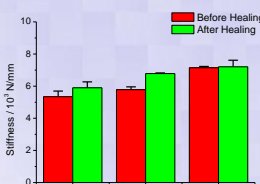
Sample	Before Healing	After Healing
Virgin	~110	~120
M20P	~105	~115
M15P	~115	~120

**Damaged**



Sample	Before Healing	After Healing
Virgin	~90	~95
M20P	~85	~90
M15P	~95	~100

**Stiffness**




Sample	Before Healing	After Healing
Virgin	~5.5	~6.0
M20P	~5.8	~6.8
M15P	~7.0	~7.2

### Interlaminar fracture toughness

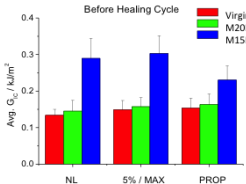
**Healing cycle:**  
Heating to 177°C for 2 hours

**Surface ratio:** 61%

**Volume fraction:** 0.0247%

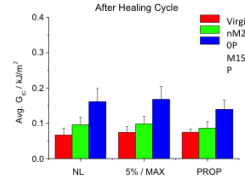


**Before Healing Cycle**



Sample	Virgin	M20P	M15P
NL	~0.15	~0.15	~0.28
5% / MAX	~0.15	~0.15	~0.30
PROP	~0.15	~0.15	~0.23

**After Healing Cycle**



Sample	Virgin	M20P	M15P
NL	~0.08	~0.08	~0.15
5% / MAX	~0.08	~0.08	~0.17
PROP	~0.08	~0.08	~0.13

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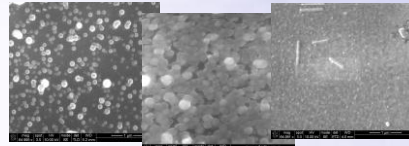
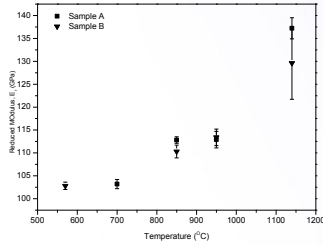
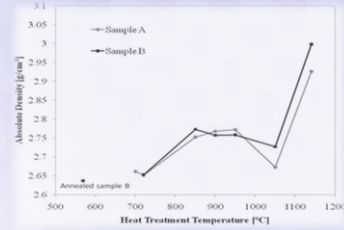


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## Glass ceramic fibre composites

- Glass-ceramic systems are polycrystalline materials formed by controlled crystallisation of the parent glasses.
- Reduced Young's modulus obtained through nanoindentation for MAS was 139GPa following crystallisation at 1140°C.



Shamsudin, Z., Hodzic, A., Soutis, C., Hand, R. J., Hayes, S. A., Bond, I. P., J. *Mater. Sci.* **46**(17), pp. 5822-5829(2011)



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## MAS Glass Ceramic Fabrication



a) Transfer of platinum crucible at 1600°C to drawing furnace at 1240°C



b) MAS fibre was up-drawn as the appropriate melt viscosity



c) The fibre diameter was controlled by the speed of drawing

## LAS Glass Ceramic Fabrication



a) Rods up to 1.5m long with 5 mm diameter were produced by dipping a metal rod into molten glass



b) Glass rod was gripped by chuck before being drawn.



c) The glass rod softened and spun through the orifice.



d) The fibre diameter was successfully controlled.



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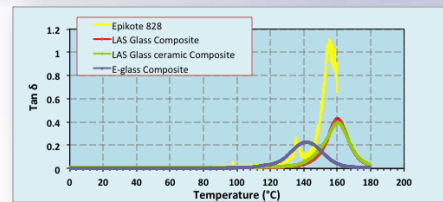
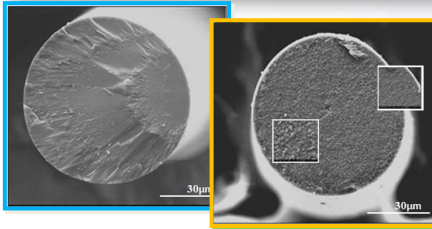
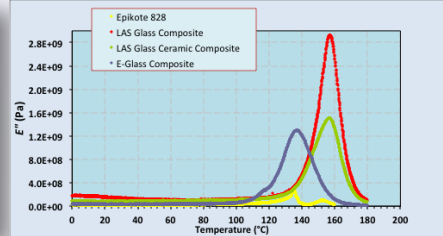
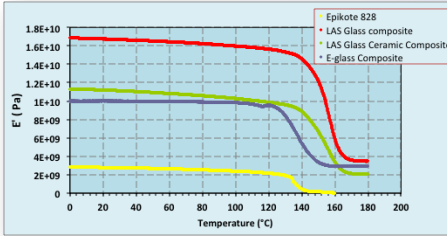




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DMTA



LAS Glass

LAS GC

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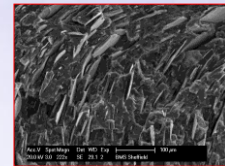
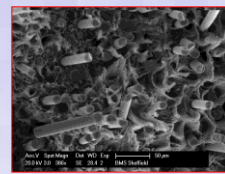
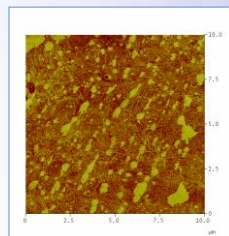
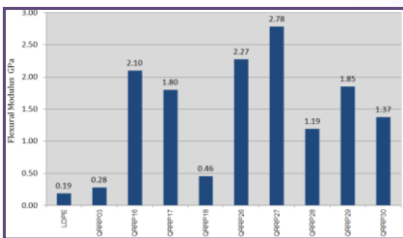
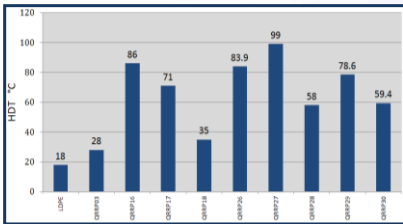
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Recycling theme: turning waste polymers into structures



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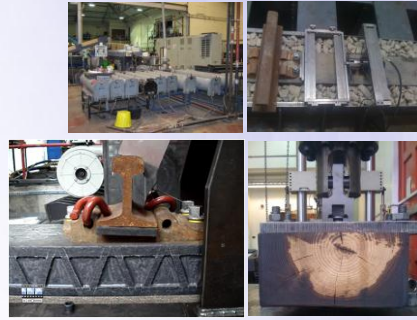




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## Case study: Recycled Composite Railway Sleepers



10 - 300kN  
Full size sleepers 250x130x2600mm  
5 million cycles at 1.8 Hz (22 days)



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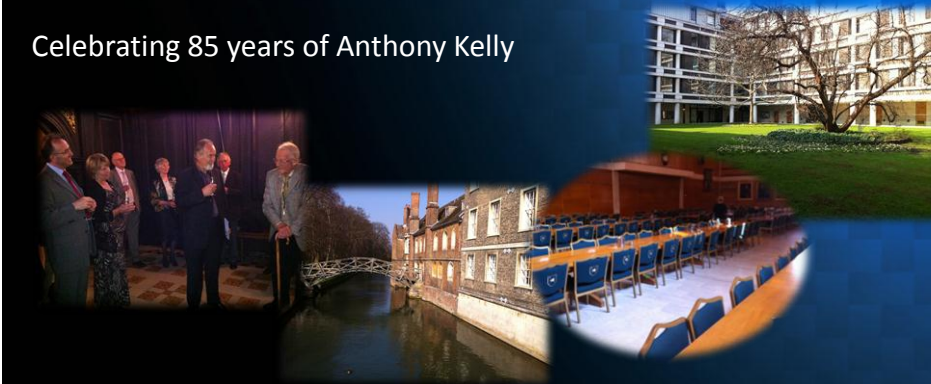


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Welcome to DFC 12 – SI 6 at Queens’ College, Cambridge  
8-13 April 2013

Celebrating 85 years of Anthony Kelly



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# Global Manufacturing Festival: Sheffield

17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> April 2013

AMRC - Advanced Manufacturing Park



Focused on connecting SME's into the country's advanced manufacturing supply chains, through which we supply the world...

17<sup>th</sup> April

## Festival Launch Night

- Official Festival launch, Millennium Galleries

## Get up to Speed

- Interactive Education event.
- Target audience – school children, students and parents
- Purpose – introduce the STEM subjects, and build confidence in the sector as an excellent place to work.

18<sup>th</sup> April

## Exhibition & Speakers

- Exhibition focused on Manufacturing Supply Chain and Skills
- Presentations from the OEMs including Procurement Specialists
- Networking – Meet the OEMs from Aerospace, Nuclear, Medical and Renewables

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