

Driving Wind Blade Manufacturing Innovation

Innovation in Materials and Manufacturing



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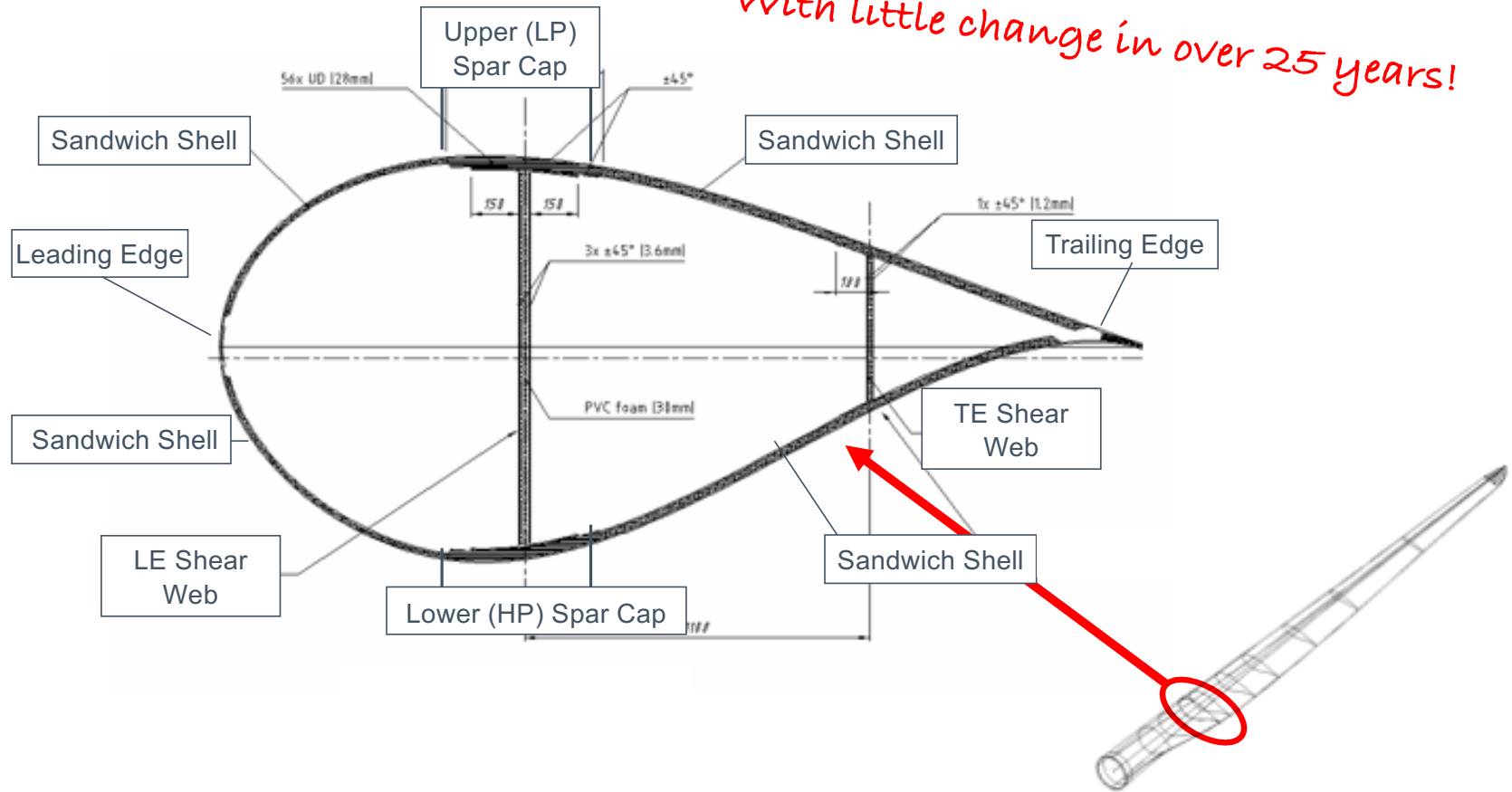
**2024 SANDIA
BLADE WORKSHOP**

September 16-20, 2024 | Albuquerque, NM



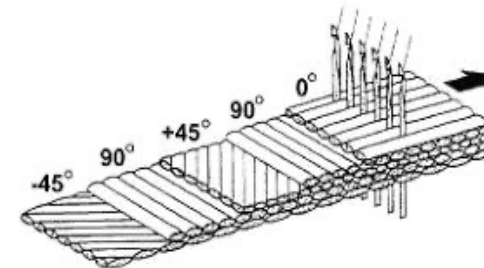
Fundamental Design of Composite Wind Blades is REALLY elegant!

With little change in over 25 years!



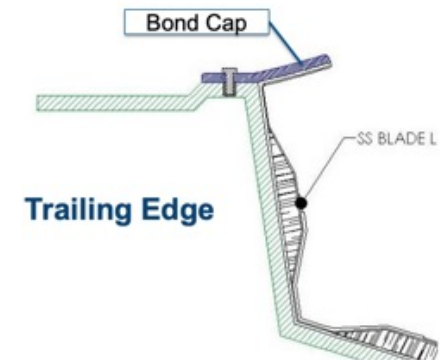
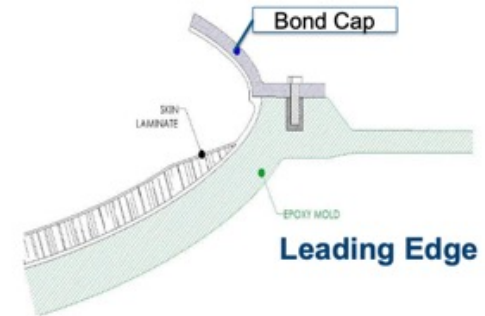
TPI Composites: Largest Independent Manufacturer of Utility-Scale WTB's

- Nearly 60 years of large-scale composites manufacturing.
- TPI as an early innovator of infusion technologies:
 - Infusion Technology (SCRIMP®)
 - Textile forms from 24oz Woven Roving to Multiaxials with integrated flow fabrics.
 - Sandwich Construction (balsa and foam core replaces honeycomb).
 - Tooling Systems
 - Integrated Mold Heating and Control
 - Precision A-Surface Control
 - Jigs, Fixtures and Assembly Systems
 - Reuseable Silicone Vacuum Bags
 - Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Initiative (AMII, 2009)
 - Trailing Edge Prefabs
 - 3D Laser Projection (ply-templating)
 - Engineered core
 - Rodpack (precursor of pultruded profiles)
 - More: [AMII Final](#)



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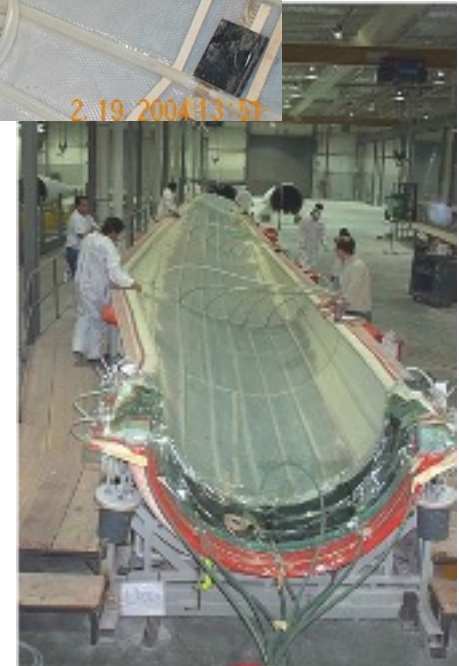
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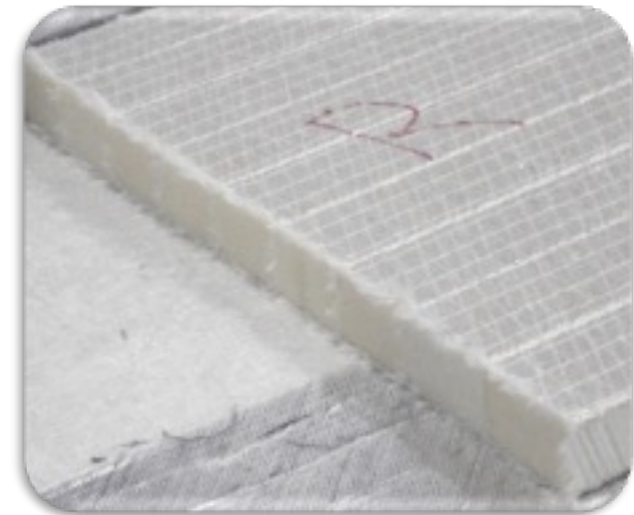
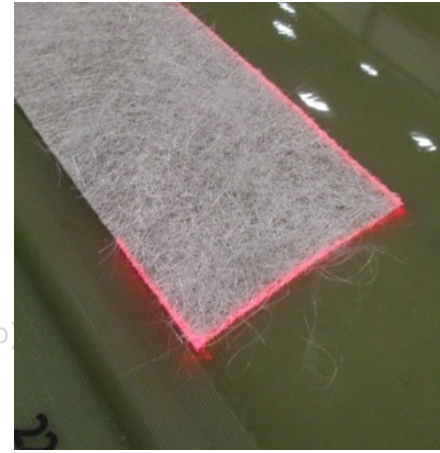
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In the Past 10+ Years What Has Changed? Challenges Faced in WTB Manufacturing

- The chase for Capacity Factor (C_f) => Larger Blades!

- Blade length and mass.

- Blade Perimeter and Area.
 - Impact on Quality.
- Perishable Materials .
 - Out time versus drive for reduced cycle time.
- Root Attachment.
 - T-Bolts vs Root Inserts.
 - Inserts – Infusion Complexity.
- Tooling, precision still matters.
 - Bigger blades same tolerances!
- Blade mass increases fatigue concerns.
 - Focus on quality!!!

- Cycle-Time Impact.

- 24 hours remain golden standard.

- Carbon Fiber is a fact of life.

- Larger blades become stiffness critical.
- Edge-wise loading -> carbon reinforcement.

- Modularity.

- An opportunity for Owner/Operators.
- A challenge for blade makers!



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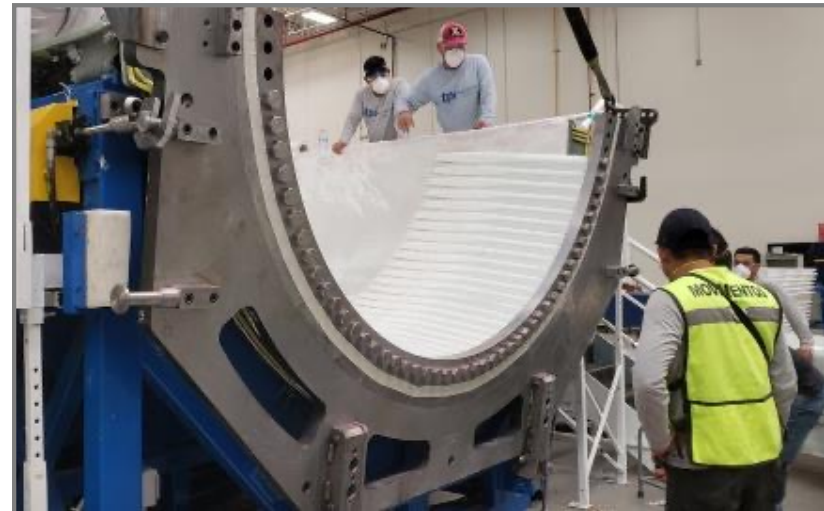
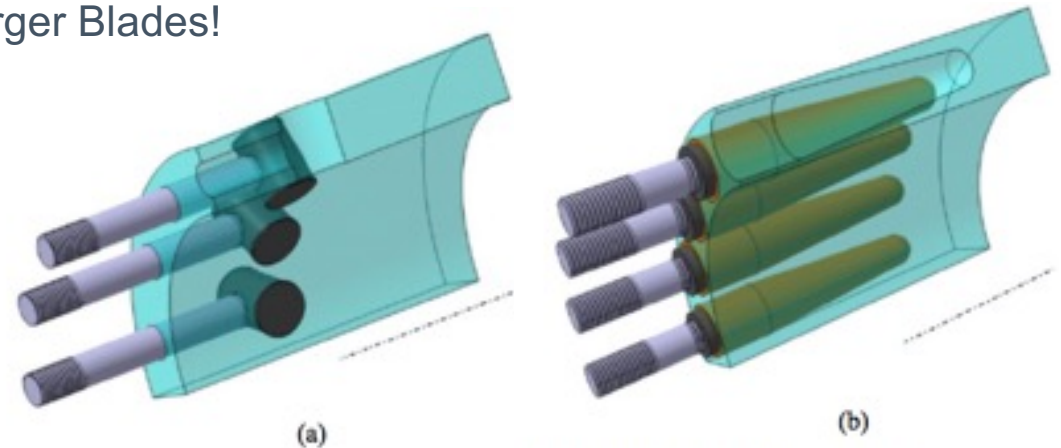
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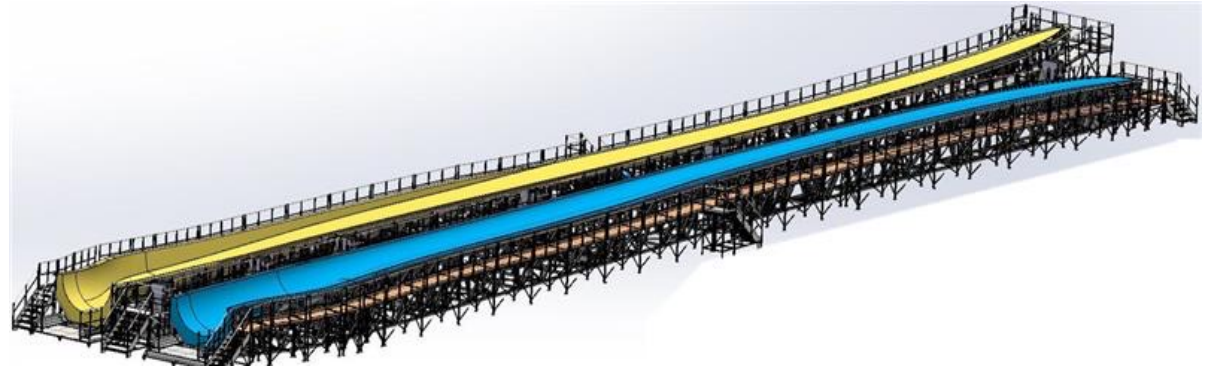
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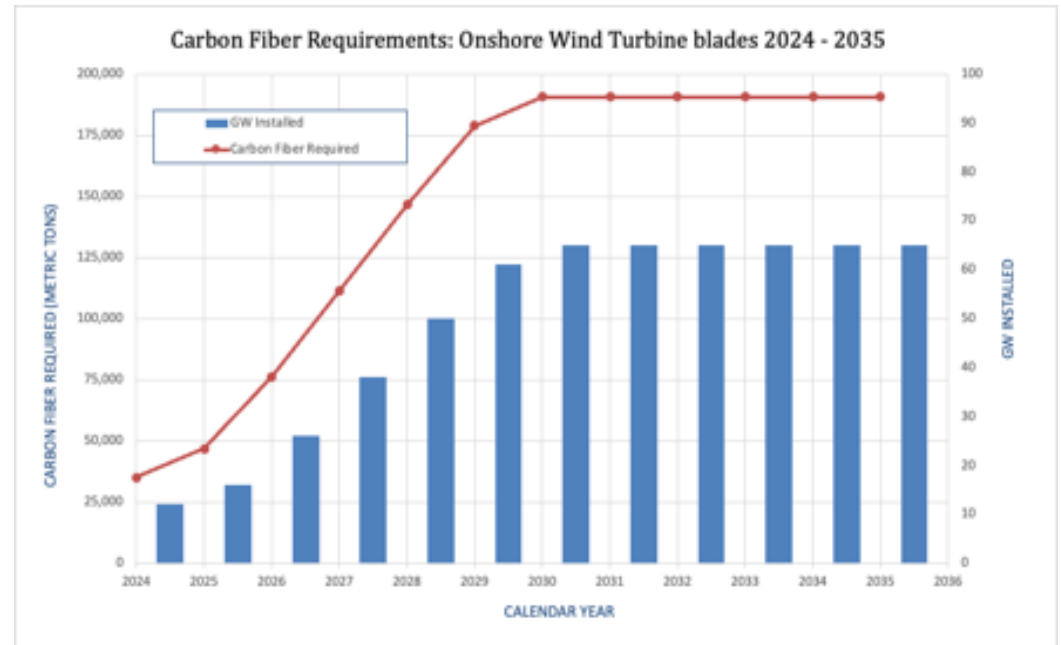
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Nolet, S.C., "Evolution of Wind Blade Manufacturing", Carbon Fiber 23, Composites World, November 2023.

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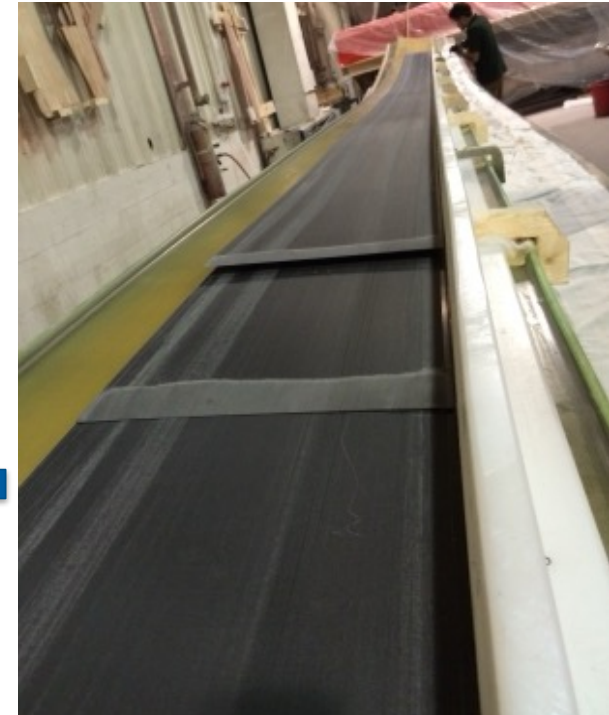
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 - Integration of "prefabrications".
 - Root, Spars, Trailing-Edge & Leading-Edge Prefab's
 - Pultruded Spar Caps
 - Evolution of the RodPack?
 - Model based Manufacturing
 - Ply-by-ply Modeling
 - Core Geometry Extraction, More to do!
 - T-Bolts to root inserts, multitude of methods
 - Increasing root stud density
 - Increasing infusion complexity (and cycle time)
 - What about AUTOMATION???
 - Ply cutting
 - Blade finishing (root drilling, flange trim, surface fairing, scuff sanding/paint prep, robotic painting, etc.)
 - Klingspor
 - Temple Allen
 - Others/Custom
 - Automation in molding: It's CT (and cost).
 - Ingersoll, MAG/Fives, Danobat, MTorres



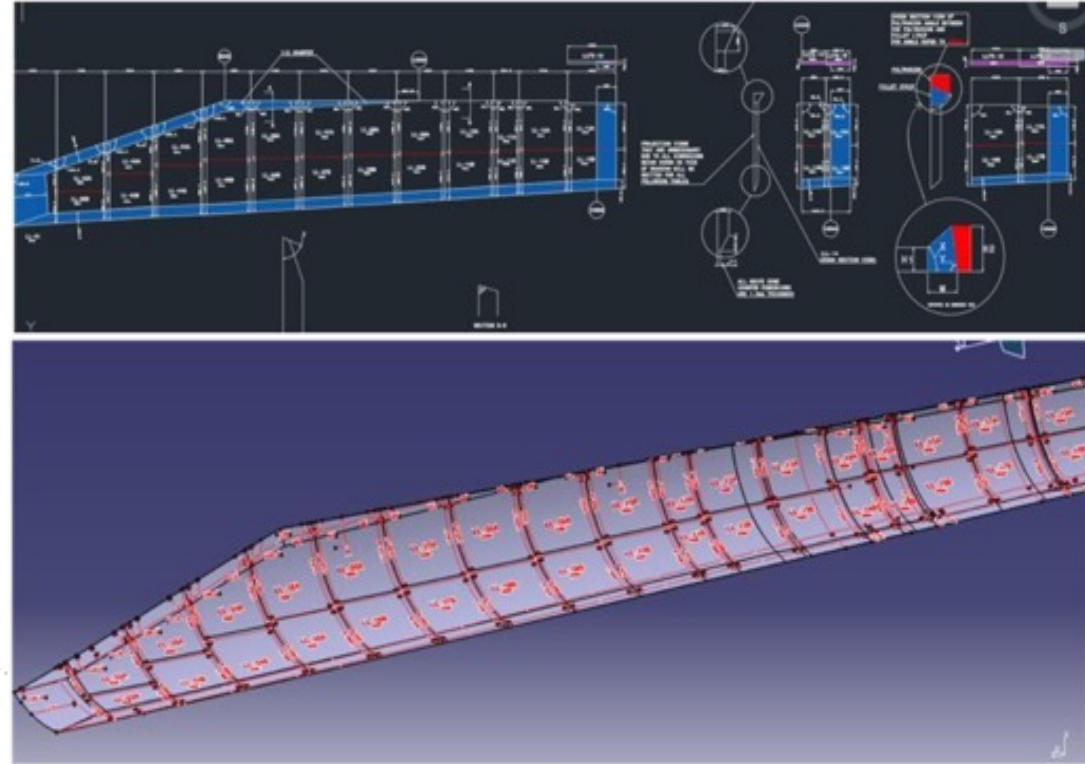
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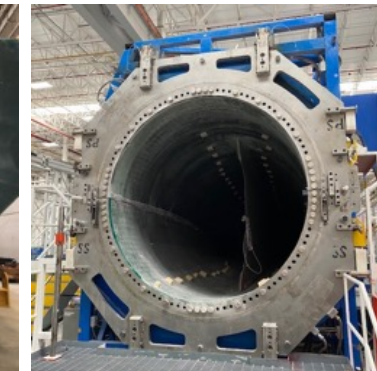
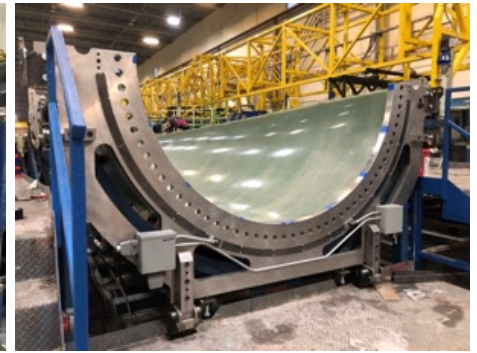
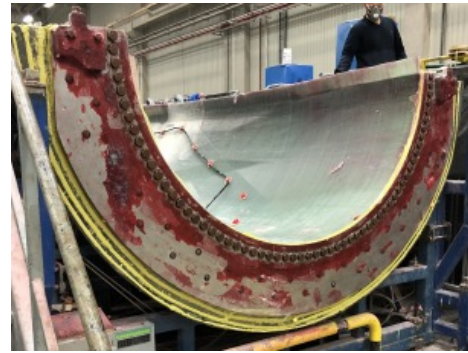
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Klingspor MSS 800 3.0 Blade Sanding System.



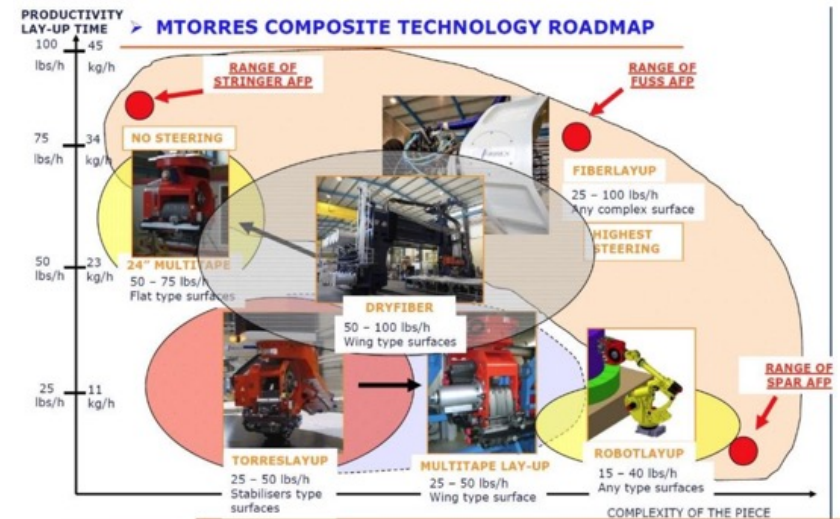
Temple Allen EMMA® robotic sand, grind, polish robot.

Decarbonize & Electrify

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Looking Forward: Where is Innovation Blooming?

- Additive Manufacturing.
 - Blades and Blade Components.
 - Deposition rate is primary impediment (IMHO).
 - Extensible blade tips (making AM more realistic).
 - TPI engaged with the Labs and Academia on FOA 2960 projects.
 - "Swarm 3D printing"??
 - Tooling
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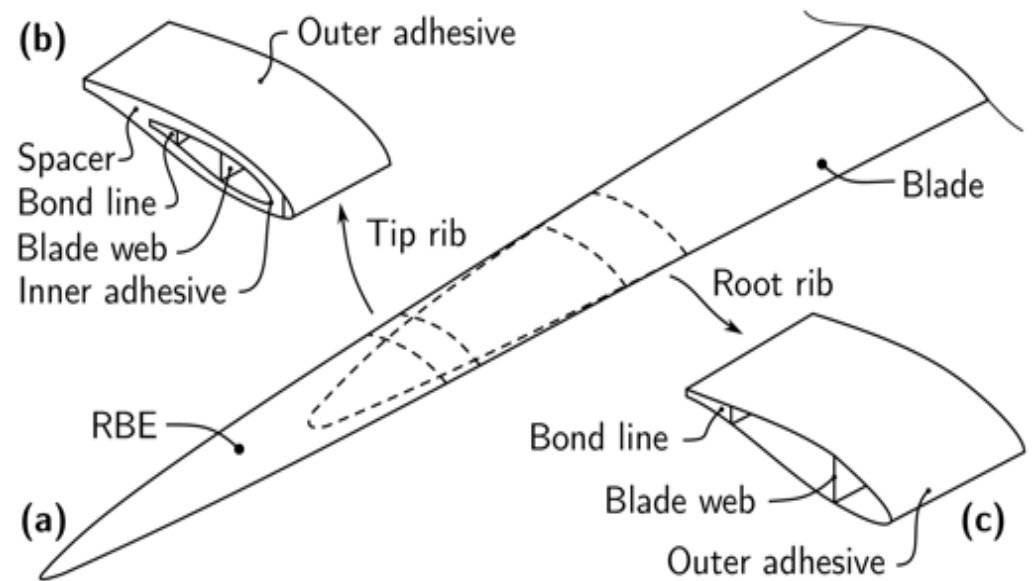
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Malo Rosemeier and Matthias Saathoff, *Wind Energ. Sci.*, 5, 897-909, <https://doi.org/10.5194/wes-5-897-2020>, 2020

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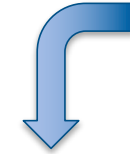
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Fabrication of Fully Recyclable Wind Turbine Blades via Multi-Axis Additive Manufacturing

**DOE-FOA-0002960: Large Wind Turbine Materials and Manufacturing
Topic #1: Large Wind Blade Additive Manufacturing**

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photo: Oak Ridge National Lab & TPI Composites

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photo: The University of Maine



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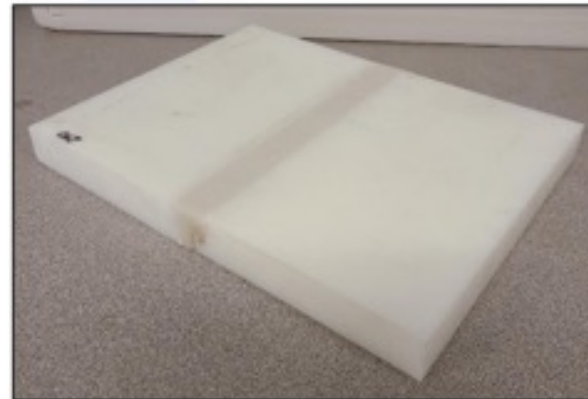
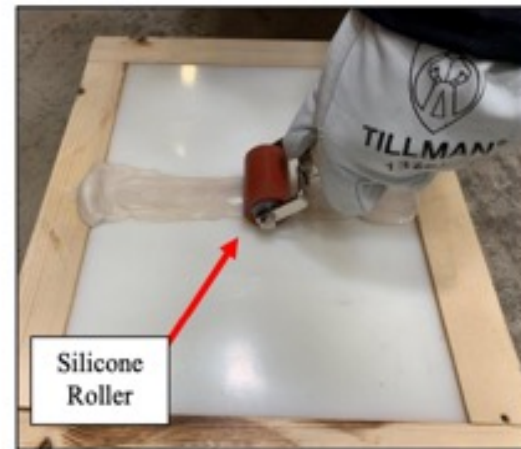
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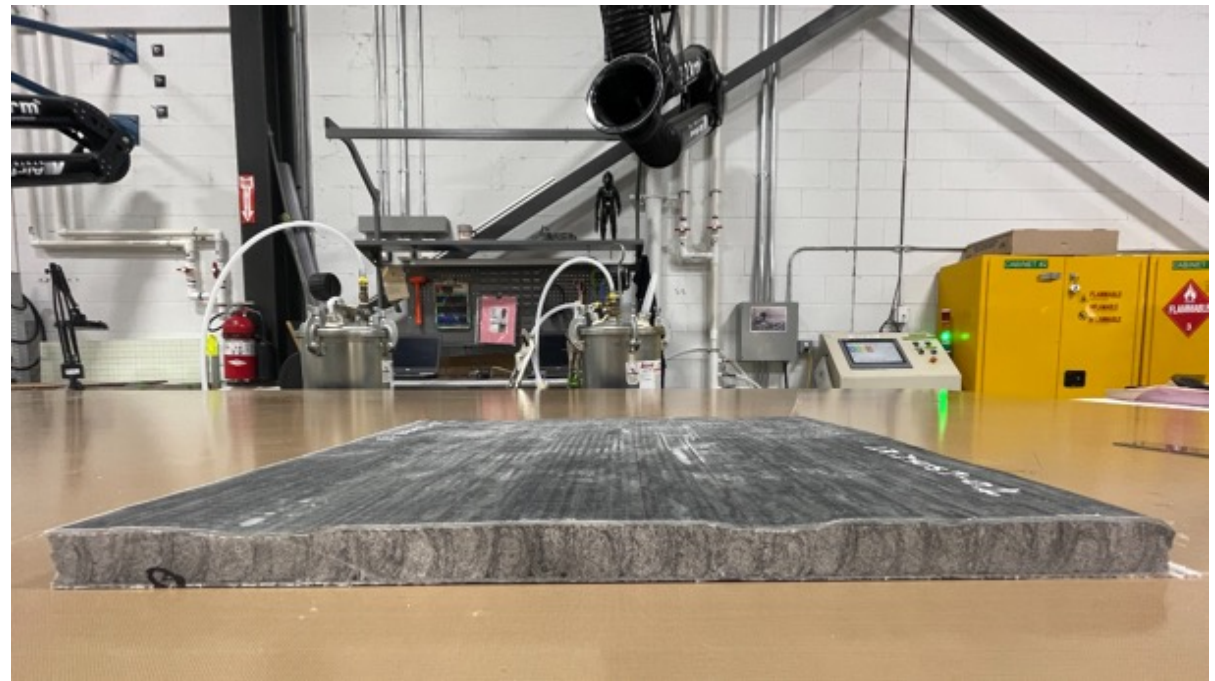


photo: Additive Engineering Solutions & TPI Composites

Manufacturing Control and Quality Improvements: Digital Twins in Manufacturing

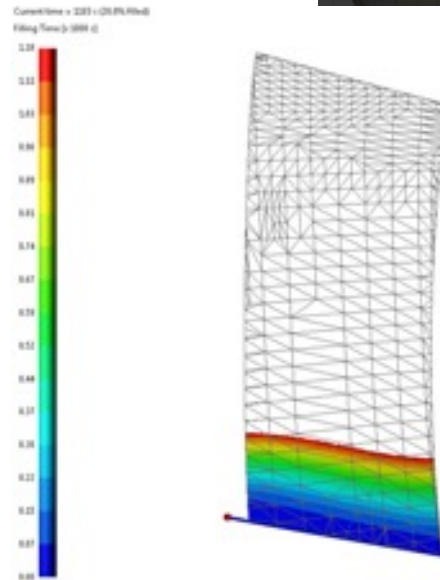
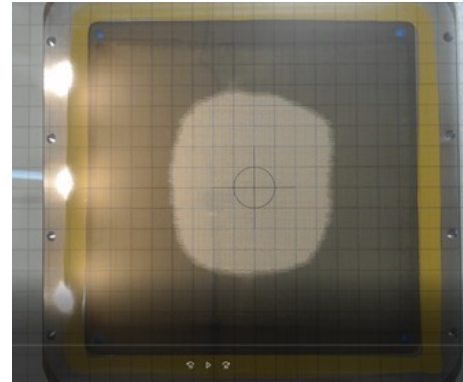
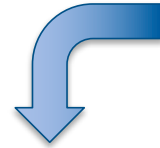
- Infusion Simulation

- Not a novel concept
- Computationally Intensive

- *“Machine Learning-based Online Layup and Infusion Process Monitoring and Feedback for Large Wind Blade Manufacturing” (DOE FOA-2960)*

- Reduced order simulation

- Coupled with Machine Learning
 - Training model to increase fidelity.
- Real time use of Vision Systems and AI
 - AI informed control/Identify discrepancies (core gaps, reinf waves, etc).
 - Eliminate infusion defects.
 - Recognize and identify leaks while corrective action is still viable.



Manufacturing Control and Quality Improvements: Digital Twins in Manufacturing

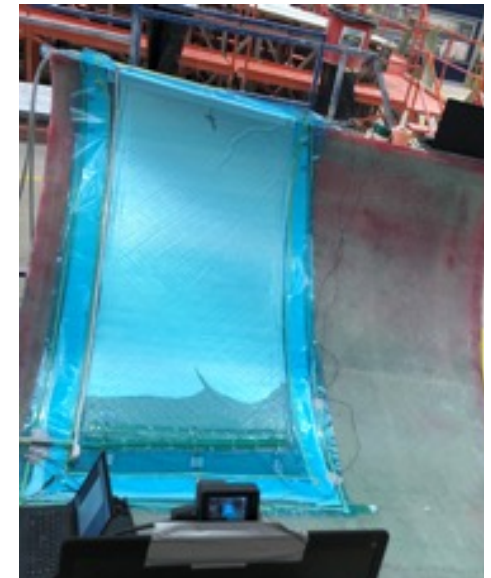
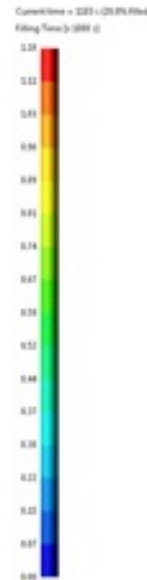
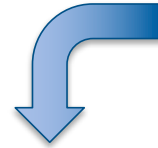
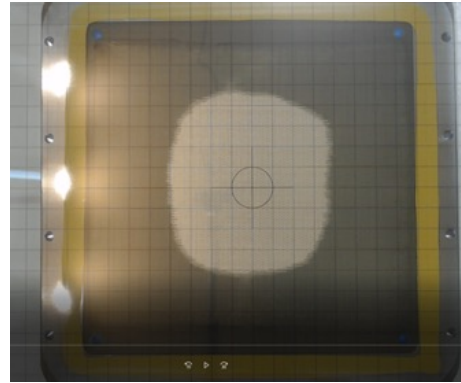
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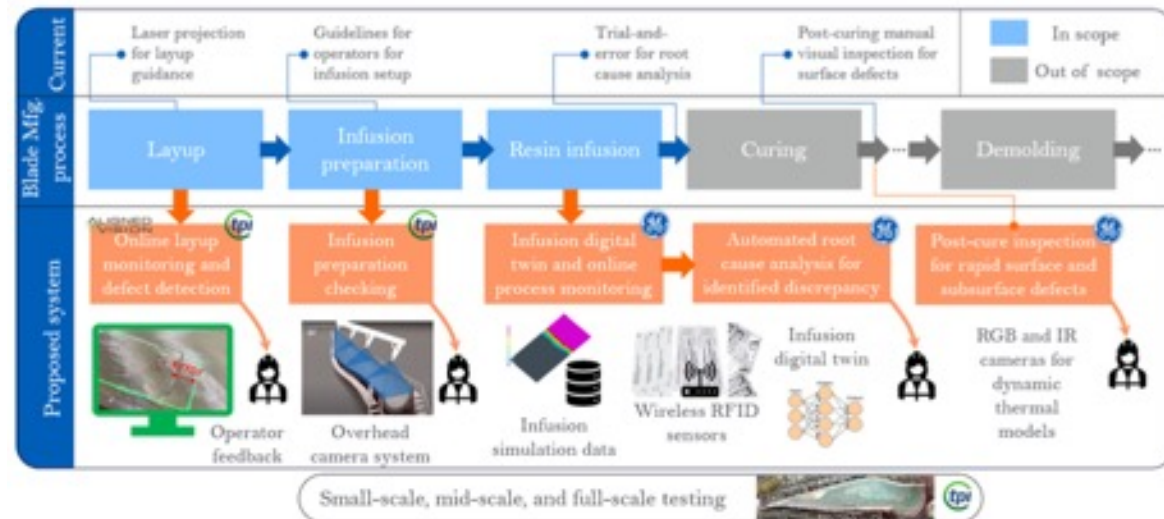
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- Real time use of Vision Systems and AI
 - AI informed control/Identify discrepancies (core gaps, reinf waves, etc).
 - Eliminate infusion defects.
 - Recognize and identify leaks while corrective action is still viable.



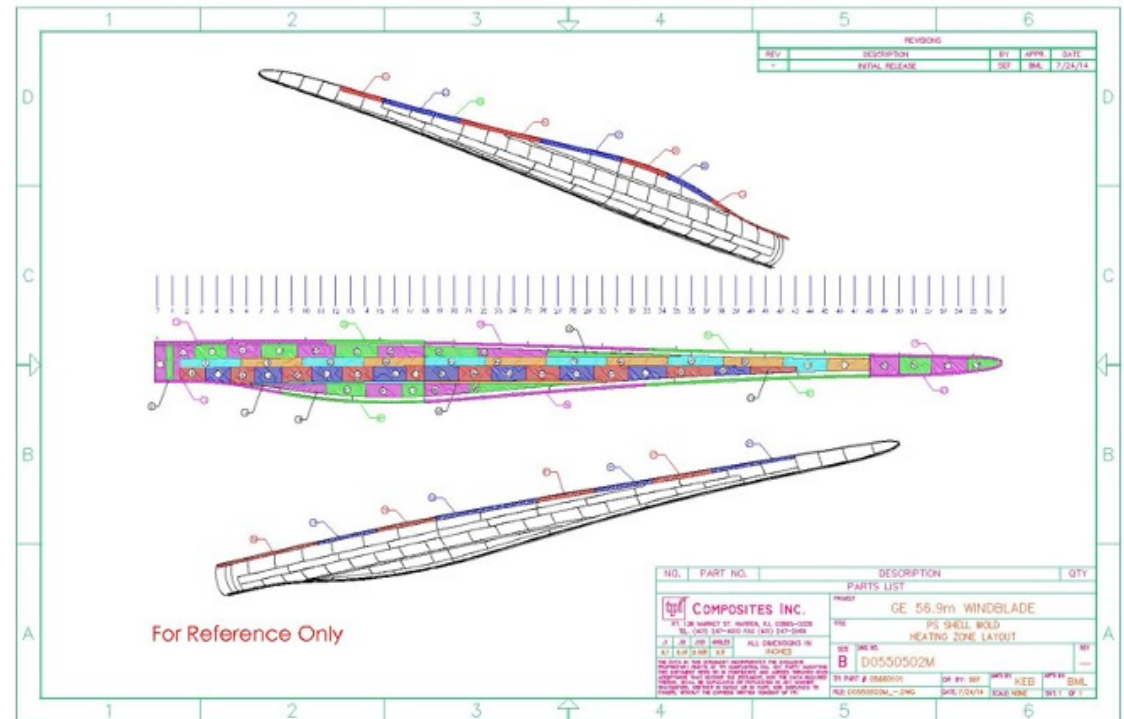
Manufacturing Control and Quality Improvements: Digital Twins in Manufacturing

- Infusion Simulation
 - Not a novel concept
 - Computationally Intensive
- “Machine Learning-based Online Layup and Infusion Process Monitoring and Feedback for Large Wind Blade Manufacturing” (DOE FOA-2960)
 - Reduced order simulation
 - Coupled with Machine Learning.
 - Training model to increase fidelity.
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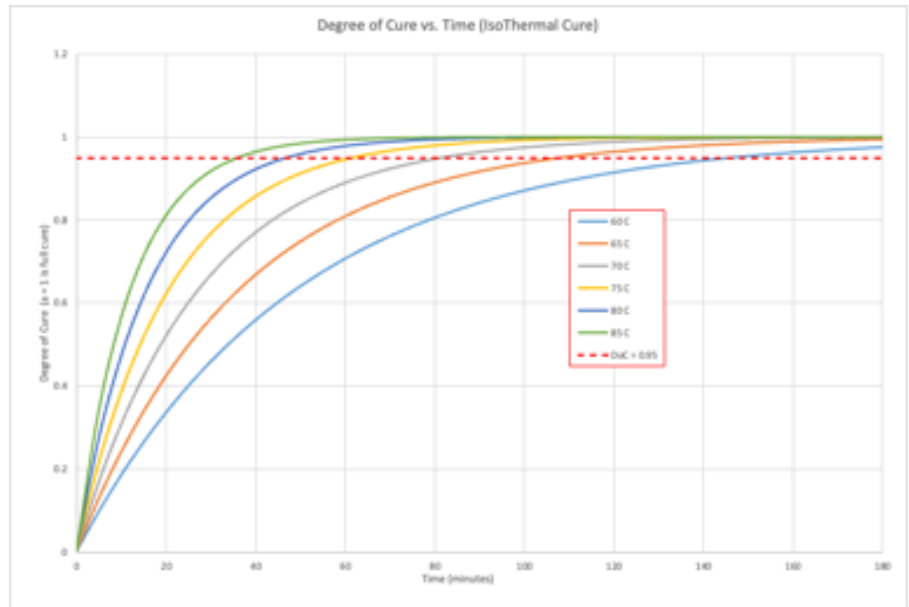
Attacking Cycle-Time and Improving Quality in Resin Processing

- Digital Twins in Processing
 - Typical shell mold > 128 independently controlled zones.
 - Cure profiles traditionally applied as uniform temperature setpoints across the area of infused shells.
 - Root sections more than 75mm thick while tip sections with face sheets < 1mm.
 - Apply cure kinetics models to blade materials, geometry and initial state.
 - Wireless RFID tags (sensors) provide non-intrusive methods to acquire temperature and DoC data.
 - Trained through machine learning with acquired data from multiple experiments.
 - Apply AI methods to direct temperature control.
 - Uniform cure progression and ultimately customer accepted degree of cure (α) across the entire blade.



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$$E = (-2.303R/D)[d \log_{10} \beta / d(1/T)]$$

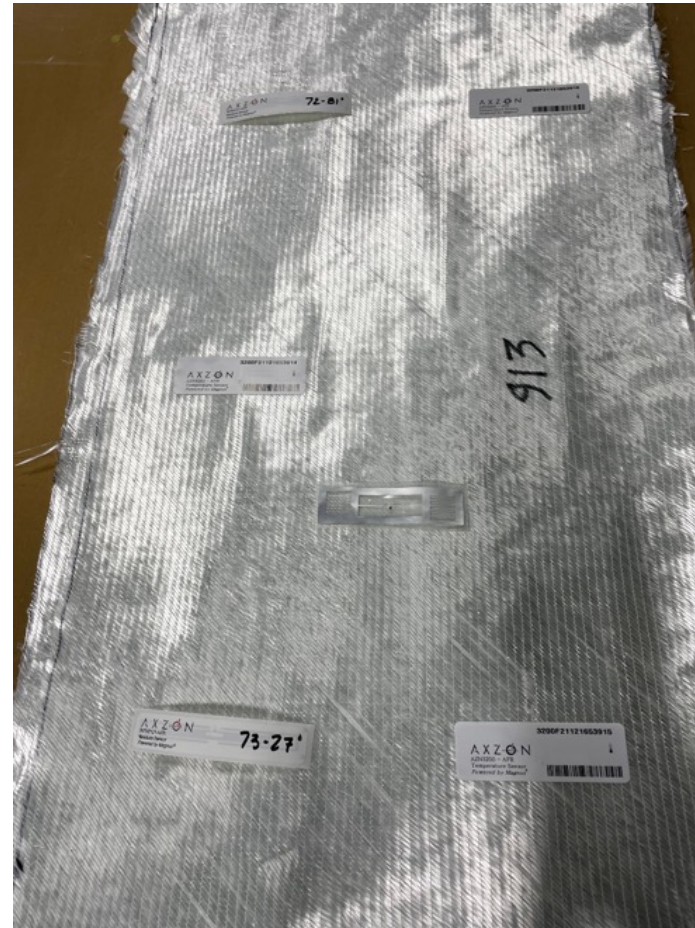
$$Z = \beta E e^{E/RT} / RT^2$$

$$k = Z \exp(-E/RT)$$

$$t_{1/2} = 0.693/k$$

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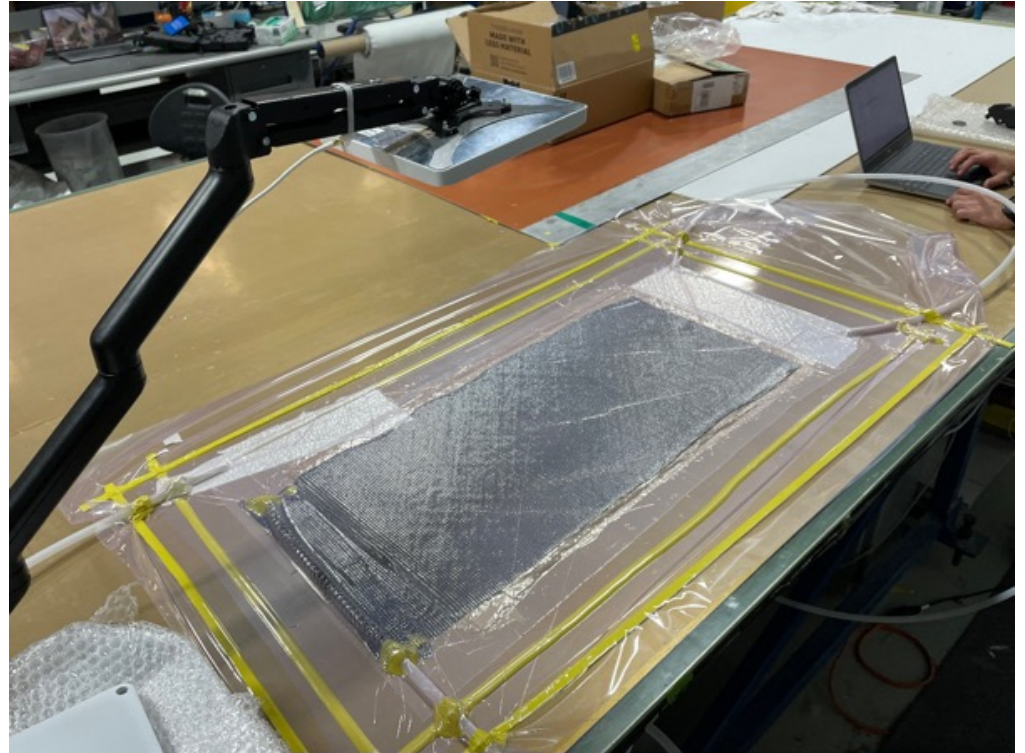
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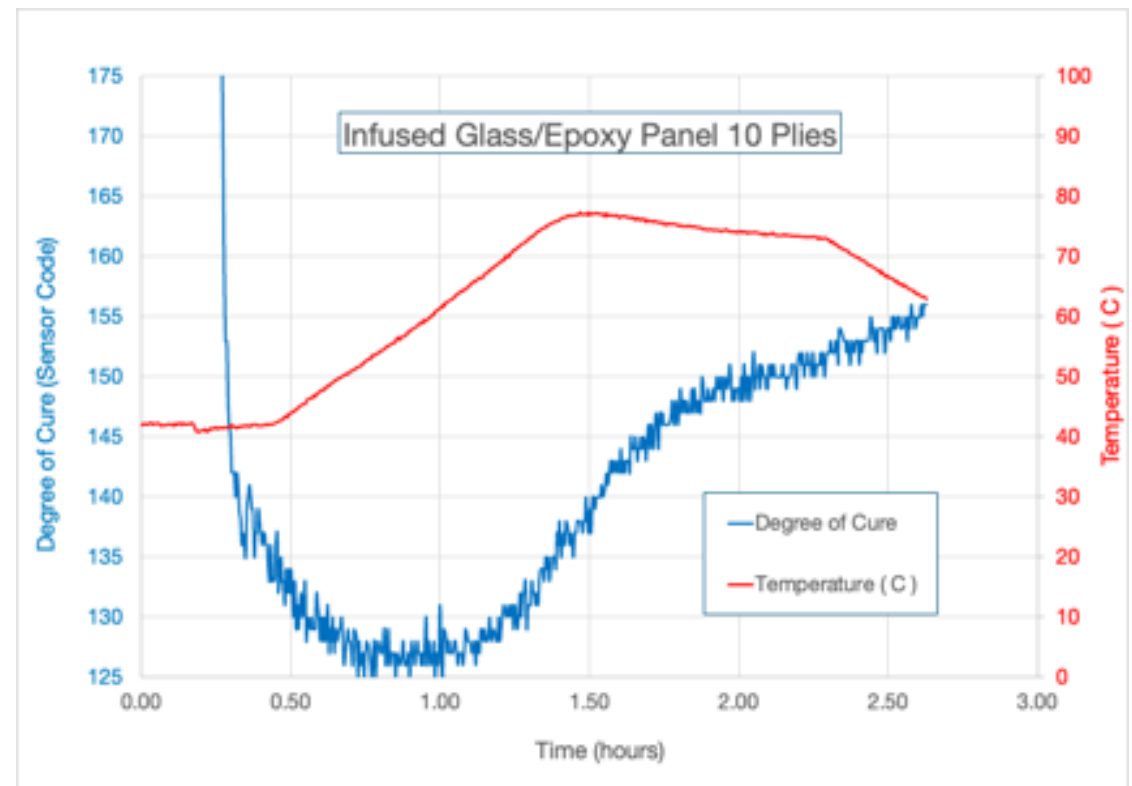
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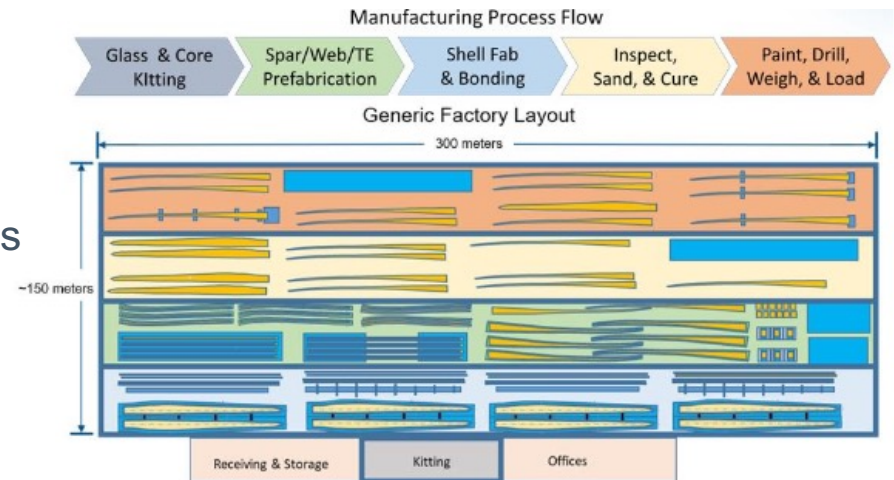
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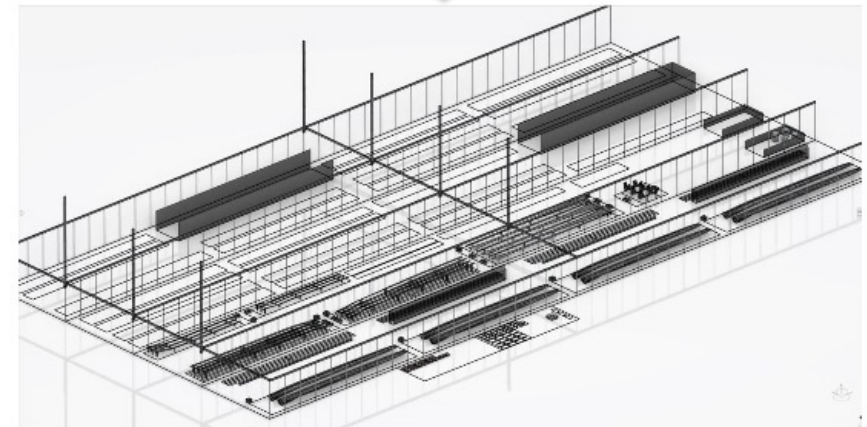
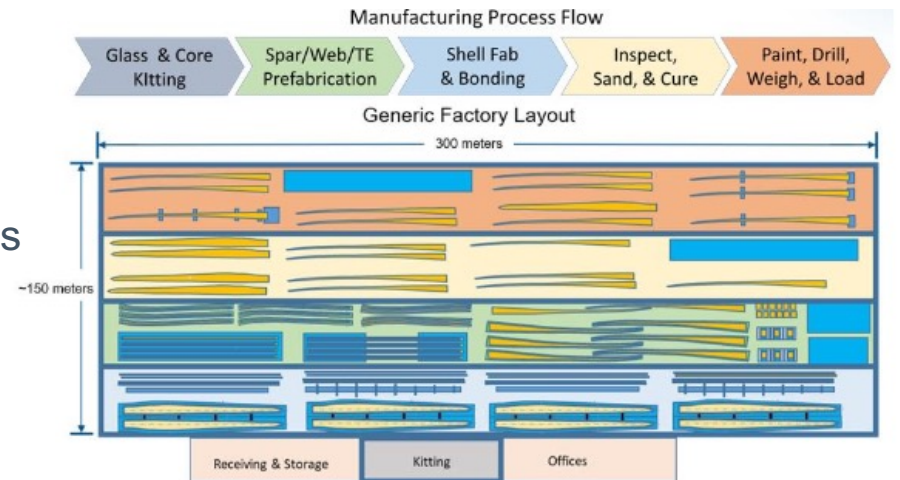
Digital Twins in Manufacturing/Production

- Multi-work cell environment spread over > 500k ft² of workspace.
- Modeling production cycle (workflow process mapping) is common, but output is seldom realized:
 - Cycle-time dependent on of availability of resources:
 - Labor, equipment, fixtures and jigs.
 - Output/capacity is a set of highly couple dependencies.
 - **Discrete Event Simulation** is able to capture these dependencies and predict factory capacity.
 - Identify resource bottlenecks
 - Optimize labor and CAPEX utilization to maximize capacity.
 - Incorporate random perturbations AND impact of automation.
 - Real-time tracking of resources in plant, status of multi-cell progress.
 - Using these inputs to re-shuffle production model and maximize capacity
 - Identify bottlenecks, resolve equipment competition and reduce wait time
 - Increase both CAPEX and labor utilization.
 - RFID tags to monitor equipment location.
 - Machine learning combined with AI methods for constant improvement.



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Dassault's *DELMIA* 3DExperience factory flow simulation: managing resources.

Finally: A Trained Workforce is REALLY Hard to Build

- Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) in Blade Manufacturing.
 - Developing a more capable workforce.
 - Real time resource availability.
 - Work Instructions and visual guides.
 - Cycle-time management.
- Vinci-VR is developing on experiential training using virtual reality.
 - Grant from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (Mass CEC).
 - <https://www.vinci-vr.com>



