

Institute for **ADVANCED**  
**Composites Manufacturing**  
INNOVATION



# 700 Bar COPV Manufacturing - IACMI 24 August 2016

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IACMI CGS Director



# NNMI Network



## Plus:

- Photonics (NY) (DOD)
- Flexible Electronics (CA) (DOD)

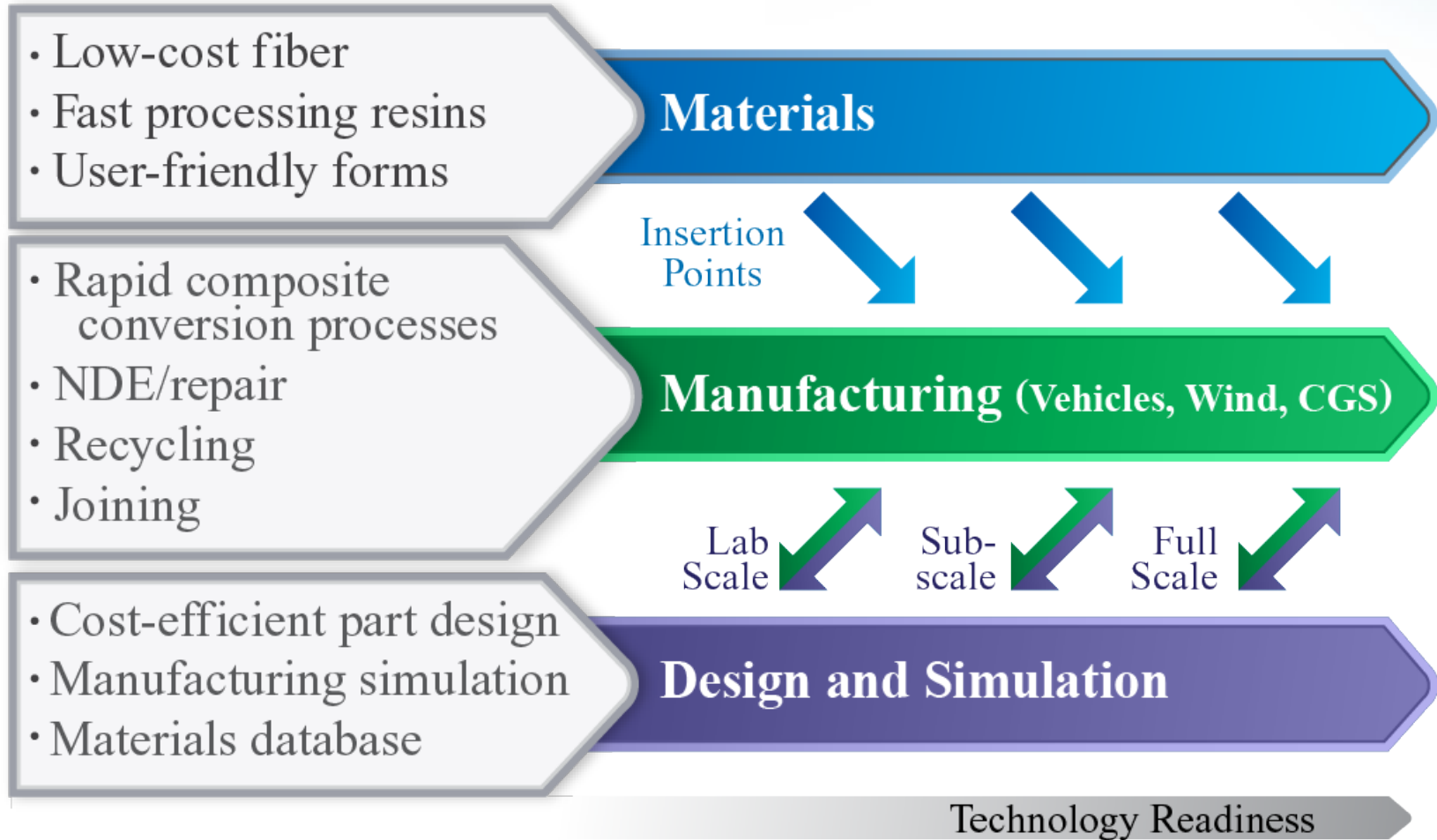
## Expected:

- Functional Fabrics (DOD)
- Smart Manufacturing (DOE)

# Shared RD&D facilities will support industry



# An integrated approach is required



# Economic Development Council

## A Platform for State Economic Collaboration



Each state deploys **hundreds of millions of dollars annually** to create jobs and investment through:

- Business Services/ Incentives
- Venture Funds
- Workforce Training
- Innovation Incubation

# DOE Compressed Gas Storage (CGS) Tank Targets

**Reduce the cost of a type IV hydrogen storage tank by 30% (2018) and 50% (2024) with a capacity of 500,000 units/year**

SOA

Fabrication method: Filament winding, a mature industry, 40+ years

## **IACMI - Possible Approaches**

Lower cost materials

Faster, cheaper fabrication

Reduced factor of safety through SHM (maintain safety in service)

Novel designs, reduced certification costs

# Project Approach and Accomplishments

Approach: Improve individual constituents of **materials**, **design** and **operating conditions** to synergistically enhance tank performance and reduce cost.

700 bar compressed tanks can meet the DOE targets except:  
**cost, volumetric capacity, and weight**

## *Material Selection*

Reduce material cost  
Increase performance

Alternative low cost resin  
Resin with nano-particles

## *Tank Design and Manufacturing*

Better material use  
Improve efficiency

Optimize fiber pattern  
Mix different fiber types

## *Operating Conditions*

Reduce pressure  
Increase density

Cold gas storage concept

OPTIONS

PROJECT SCOPE

# Technical Gaps and Barriers

## CGS IACMI Roadmap

- Designs and certification of conformable tanks
- Permeability of hydrogen molecules; need new liners
- Limited experience with thermoplastics; questionable energy savings in moving to TPs
- Method to screen and predict performance without testing full-scale tanks (reduce screen cost by 50%)
- Reduce fiber deposition cycle times (by 30%)
- High tensile strength fiber required; need for increased toughness
- Predictive models for design, scaling, and conformable geometries
- Cost model for high-volume manufacturing



# R&D Activities

## CGS IACMI Roadmap

- Develop a toughened system and method to assess trade-offs between higher tensile-strength and higher of fibers
- Developing new fiber deposition technology which is cost-competitive with current methods
- Evaluate benefits of alternate fiber architecture designs (e.g., braided continuously wound TP UD tape)
- Develop alternate TP materials, screening and testing methods, and validate tank performance
- Develop standards and testing methods for non-standard tanks
- Assess energy savings pathways associated with thermoplastics versus thermosets
- Evaluate/develop open-source predictive models using new or developmental materials

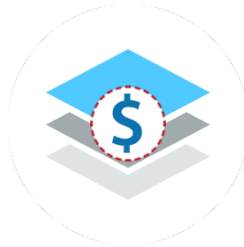
# Barriers to Entry

Manufacturing  
Volume



- Push for H2 economy
- Encourage H2 infrastructure
- Encourage competition

High Material Cost



- Tighten manufacturing variance
- Graded construction

Cost of Product  
Certification



- Revise codes/standards without sacrificing safety
- Incentivize OEMs to share cost

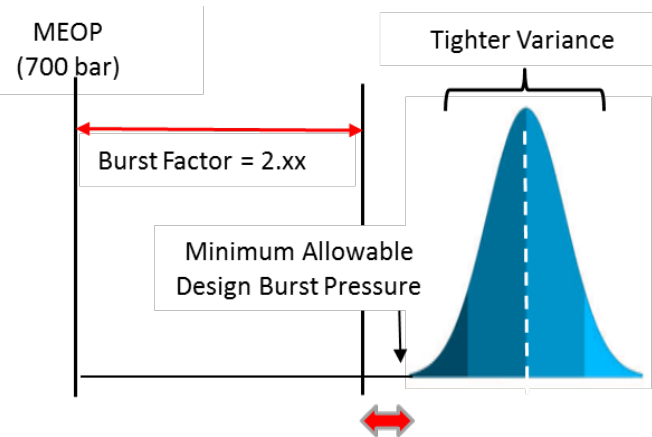
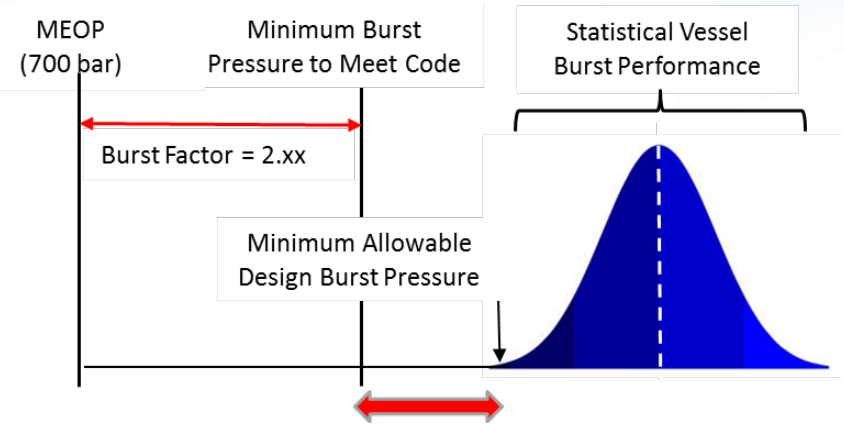
Unclear needs from  
the market/industry



- Harmonize interface requirements
- What size and volume?

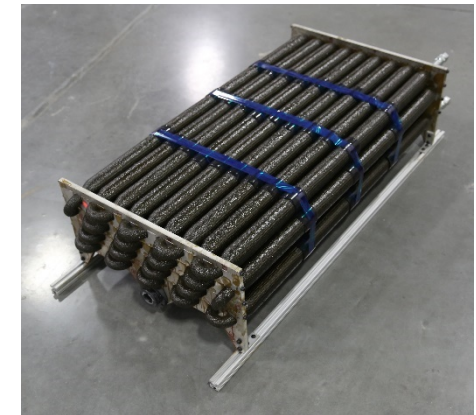
# Manufacturing Variance

- Trial & error characterization of composite strength in pressure vessel application
- Composite material properties are inseparable from manufacturing variance
- Padded safety factors leads to material cost
- Design allowables need statistical consideration
- Fabrication methods can dictate tighter variance and lower material usage



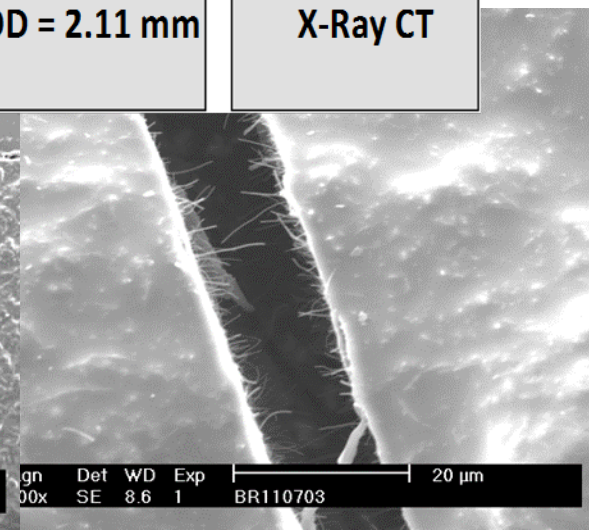
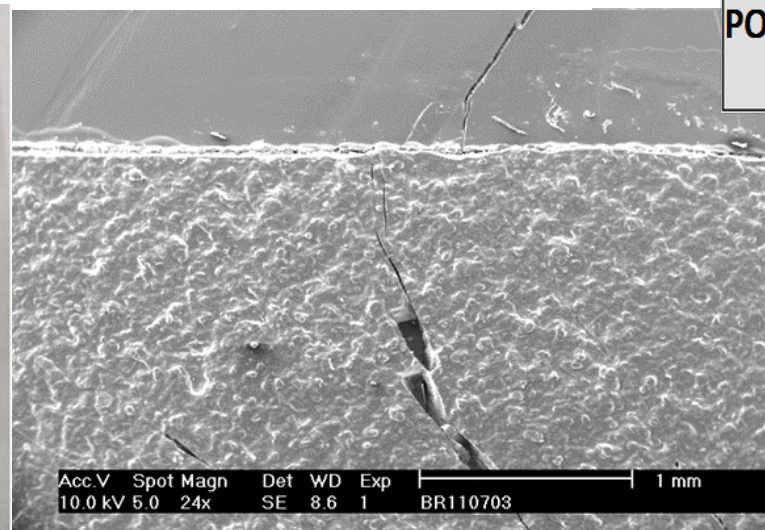
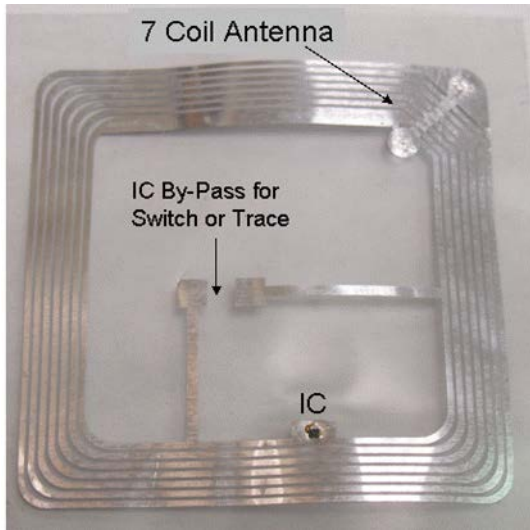
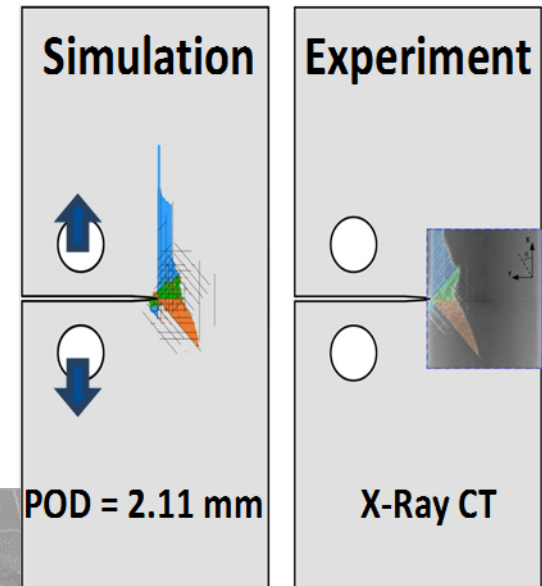
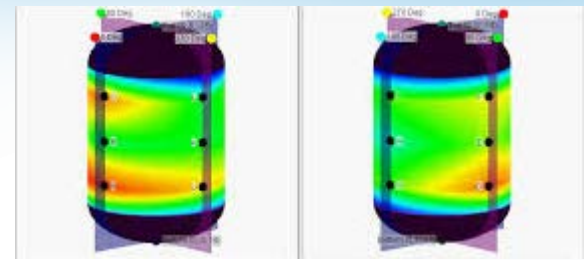
# Conformable Tanks

- Several great concepts have been proposed over time
- Challenge in maturing them beyond TRL 3
- Not trivial to realize in 700 bar production ready vessels
- Regulatory standards are not ready for new concepts other than cylindrical vessels



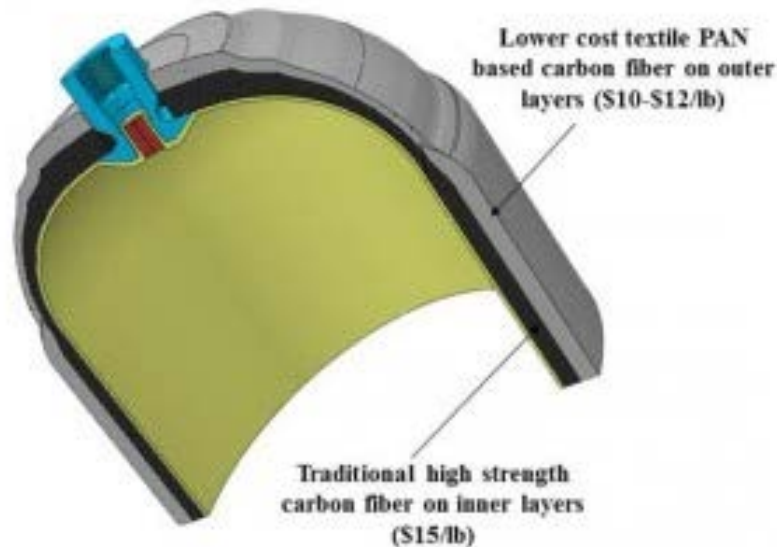
# Structural Health Monitoring – Allow Reduced Factor of Safety?

- Optimize design for improved fatigue life, stress rupture and damage tolerance
- Continuous health monitoring to encourage reduced burst factor
- Encourage adoption of cost-effective NDE techniques and life prediction for in-situ health monitoring
- Retire for cause rather than life



# Low Cost Pressure Vessels for Hydrogen Storage Utilizing Low Cost Carbon Fiber

[http://www.ctd-materials.com/wordpress/?page\\_id=101](http://www.ctd-materials.com/wordpress/?page_id=101)



Example design of 700 bar hydrogen storage vessel using a graded construction

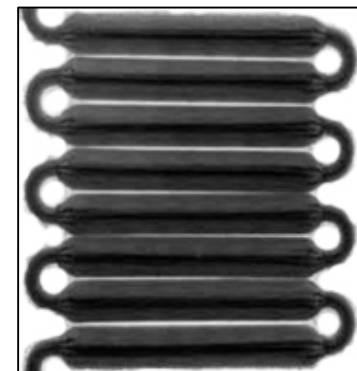
CTD is developing **graded composite tanks** that utilize low-cost carbon fibers, such as those being developed at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL).

# CGS Potential Project Areas

- **High technology readiness level (TRL):** Increase efficiency of filament winding and foster integration of hybrid reinforcements. Improve performance and reduce processing time with new matrix resins.
- **Mid TRL:** Dramatically decrease fiber placement time/cost by wrapping with (1) custom **braid** or (2) winding with **thermoplastics**. Expected to increase safety and damage tolerance while reducing mass. Application area focus is for CNG currently.
- **Low TRL:** Support manufacture of conformal/novel tank design for automotive market designed to preserve trunk space. Recognize absorption technology could significantly reduce pressure requirements and alter optimal tank design.

**IACMI to foster improved safety as well as cost reduction**

- Develop a manufacturing process with IACMI partners to significantly reduce cycle time and increase safety performance and damage tolerance of compressed gas storage (CGS) tanks utilizing:
  - *Low cost heavy carbon fiber tows (>12k)*
  - *Novel fiber placement technologies, graded tension*
  - *Tough Thermoplastic*
- Demonstrate an integrated platform technology for manufacturing tanks for compressed gas and hydrogen storage in the forms of conventional tanks, conformable tanks, and adsorbed natural gas tanks
  - *Type IV tanks with a polymeric liner*
  - *Liner-less Type V*
- Departs significantly from epoxy-based conventional filament winding





# Roles of the Integrated Project Team



*Flame-retardant thermoplastic resins;  
impregnated continuous carbon fiber composites*



University of Dayton Research Institute  
*shaping the technology of tomorrow®*

*Primary IACMI project partner;  
material characterization and testing*



*Prototyping and testing capabilities;  
scouting trials*



*Automated fiber placement technologies*



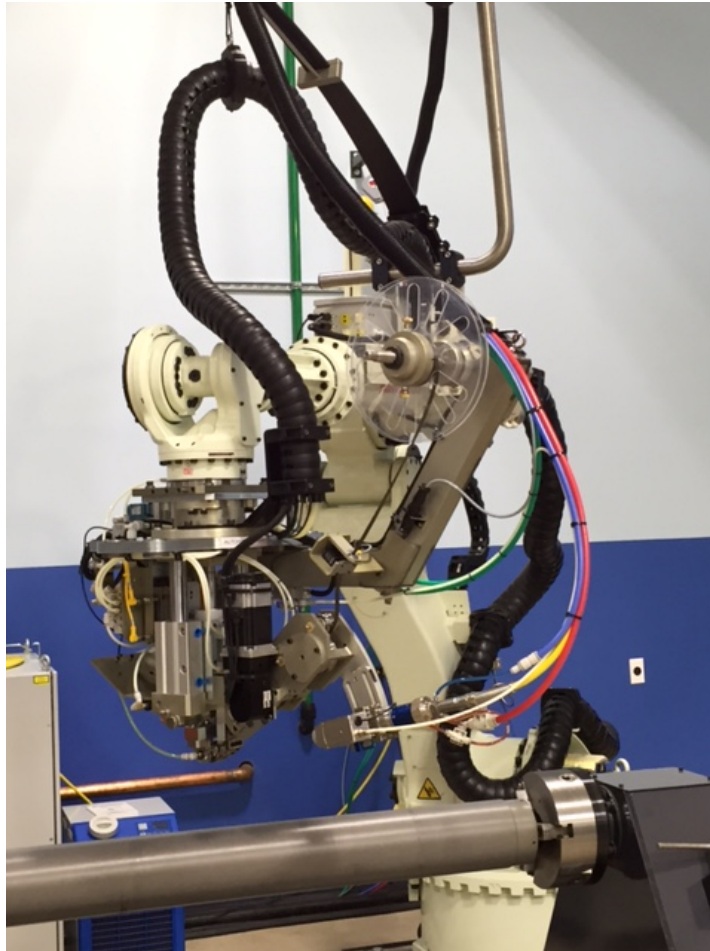
*CGS tank OEM; tank specifications and design*

- Thermoplastic Resins
  - *Intrinsically tougher than thermosets*
- Cost Reduction
  - *Heavy carbon fiber tow offers comparable mechanical properties to the existing 12k material, but at about half the cost*
  - *Enhanced toughness of thermoplastics relative to thermosets suggests that less reinforcement layers and hence, less total mass will be needed*
- Embodied Energy Reduction
  - *Thermoplastics provide a cleaner, lower energy process with no curing or shelf-life issues compared to current wet-resin systems*
- Novel Manufacturing Processes
  - *Automated laydown processes potentially offer better tank performance.*
- Recyclability
  - *Thermoplastic resins in general are recyclable, while epoxy and any other thermoset resin systems are not*

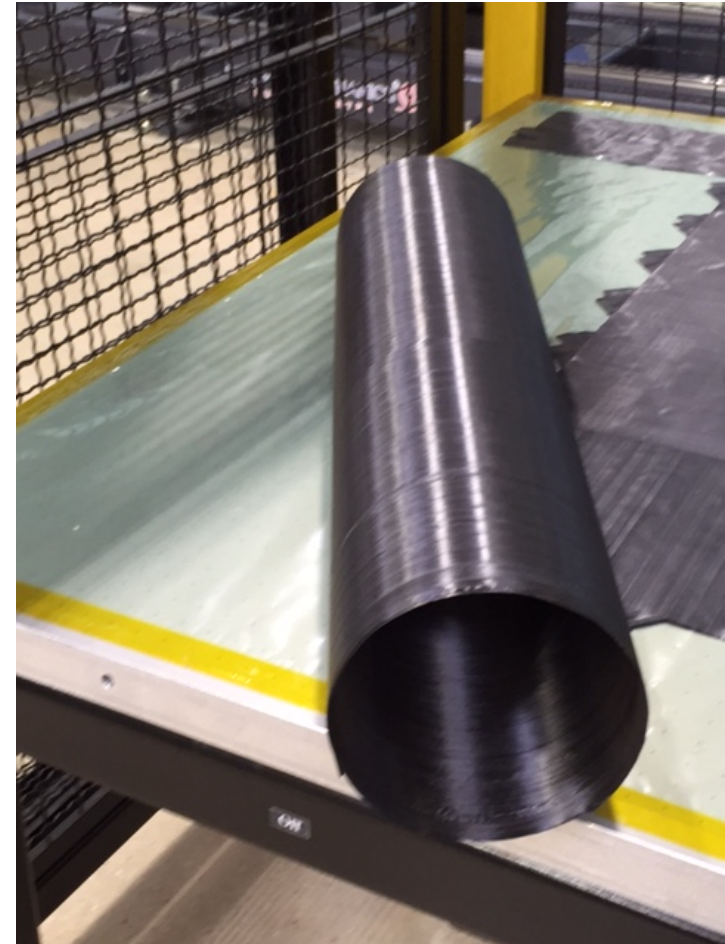
# ADC Filament Wind/Post Consolidate

## Results

- 37% less reinforcing fiber for equal burst pressure as existing thermoset tank
- Near perfect fiber load translation
- 20% weight savings overall
- 2 x faster winding time
- 90 second consolidation time
- Excellent fatigue life
- Burst pressure was exactly at calculated tensile load of prepreg.



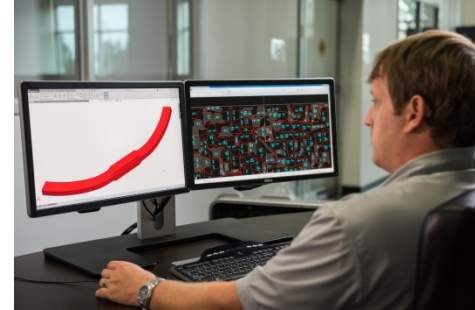
**Automated Fiber Placement Laser Head**



**Prototype Pressurized Tank Proof of Concept**

## Highland's Overbraiding Offering

- Ability to deliver significant performance, cost, and waste benefits over other technologies
- Full-service “fiber-to-finished-part” composite structures manufacturing utilizing unique proprietary overbraiding technology
- Core knowledge in braided structures with product engineering capability and ability to collaborate with customer on design
- World-class equipment and processes that enable the manufacturing of a broad range of simple-to-complex part shapes.
- Key processes contained under one roof



Product Design



Preform Manufacture



Final Part

# UDRI Overview



- Established in 1956 in Dayton, OH
- Performs basic and applied research, engineering services, and testing
- Fully supported by external sponsors
- Third in the U.S. in funded materials research
- More than 460 professional research staff
- 218,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of facilities
- Average annual revenues (last 3 years): \$90 million
- Currently under contract for more than \$550 million of research



# UDRI/IACMI Contact Information

Contact UDRI personnel to network and discuss potential IACMI projects:

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