VAP® Alliance at the JEC 2011

The VAP® Alliance will be showcased at the JEC at the Carbon Composites booth (no. T46 in Hall 1), where EADS and its global security division Cassidian will be presenting its VAP® licensing programme from 29 to 31 March and showing how easy it is to gain a license to deploy VAP® technology in differing fields.

Secar Technologie GmbH, developer and producer of the E-Port, is a successful licensed VAP® user in the electromobility field. "We make the whole roof of the E-Port, a solar carport charging station, according to the VAP® method. It not only provides us consistent results and nil-porosity components but is also an economically attractive fabrication process", explains Karl-Heinz Semlitsch, Secar managing director

Premium AEROTEC GmbH recently demonstrated the strengths of VAP® membrane-assisted low pressure infusion and its own production expertise at the unveiling of the prototype of a civilian helicopter fuselage section in its NEXICOS project. Using VAP® membrane systems, the aerostructure supplier had fabricated the complex fuselage barrel in a single go, complete with integrated stringers, local reinforcements and window frames. As it reports, the VAP® method not only enabled automation of various process steps but also delivered significant mould-making flexibility, thus smoothing the way further for scaling up production of the part to the industrial level. The VAP® approach also yielded cost savings of 30 percent over comparable prepreg structures.

Qualified VAP® membrane system for aviation applications

The decisive process component in the VAP® vacuum assisted process consists of a semi-permeable membrane system. The high-tech material involved ensures reliable removal of trapped air and volatiles over the entire component area for homogenous fibre volume content and consistent and impeccable process results. The material can be provided in versions adapted to various resin systems and process variants and is continually being developed further. At present Trans-Textil's high-temperature-resistant membrane system is undergoing the qualification process at Airbus and Premium AEROTEC for use in the fabrication of aviation components.

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