



# An Industrial Context for Flow Processes in Composite Materials.

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*Tim Searle – R&D Director.*

Wednesday 1st July 2026 | Session 5b.

17th International Conference on Flow Processes in Composite Materials  
30 June - 2 July 2026 | The University of Sheffield, UK

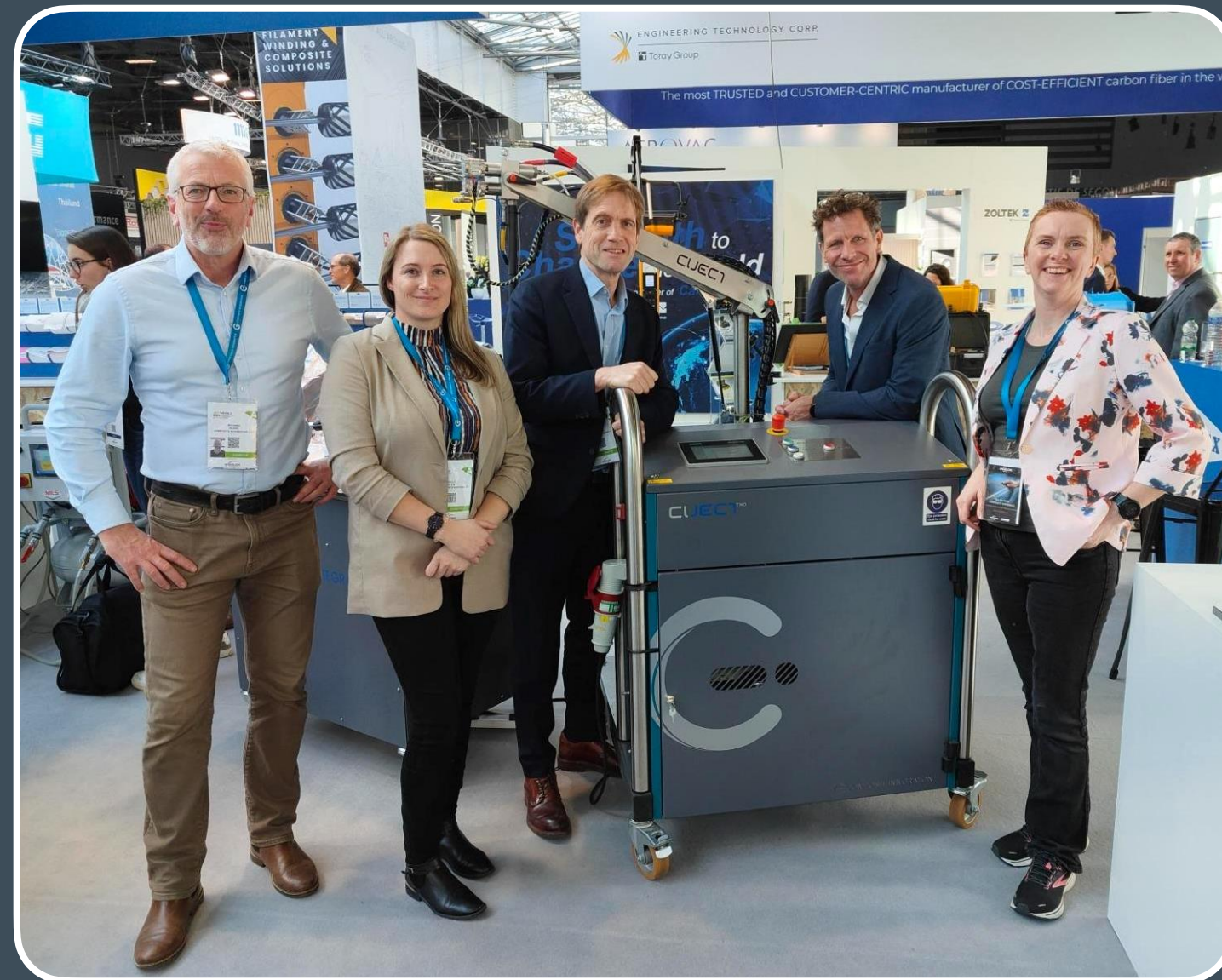


## An Industrial Context for Flow Processes in Composite Materials.

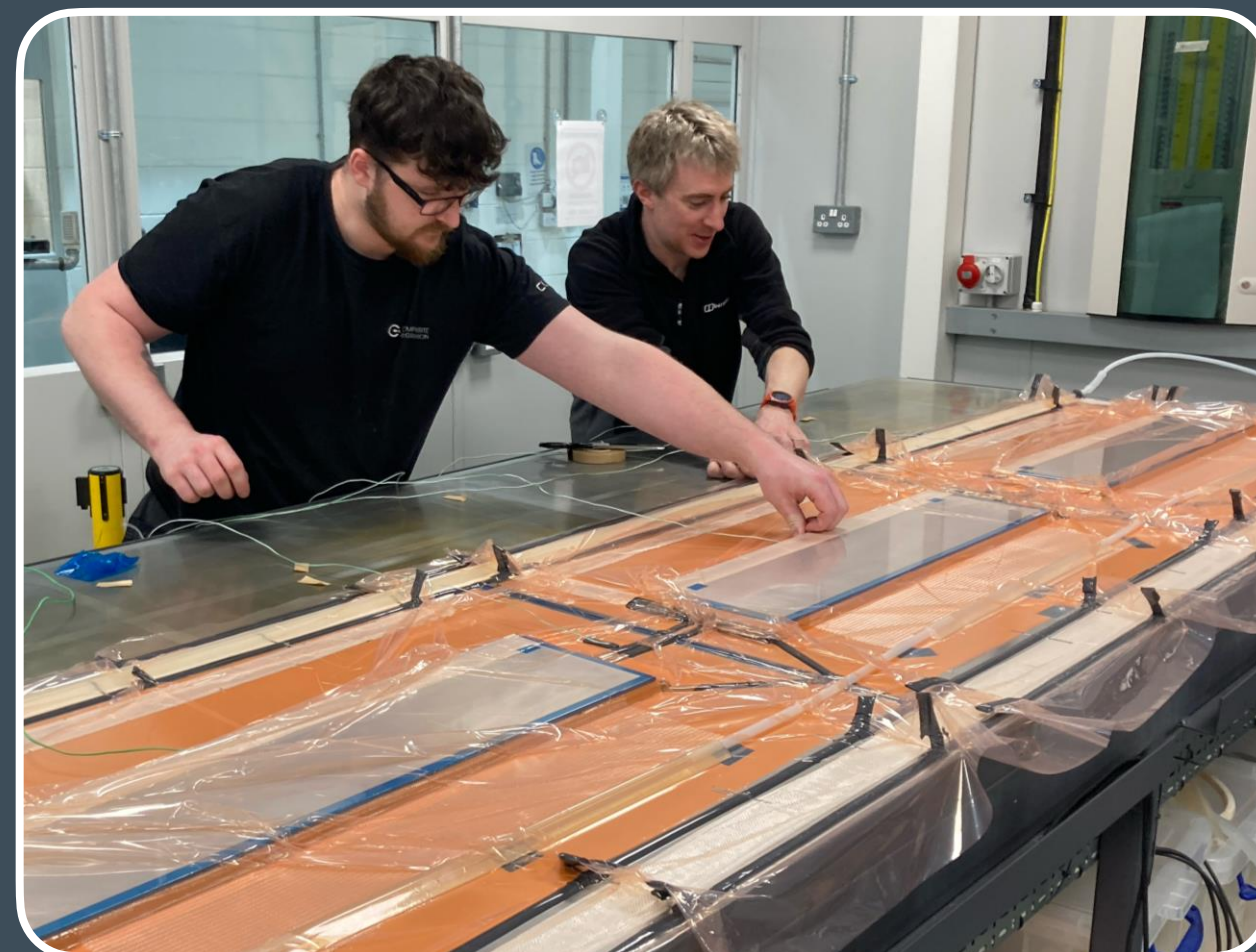
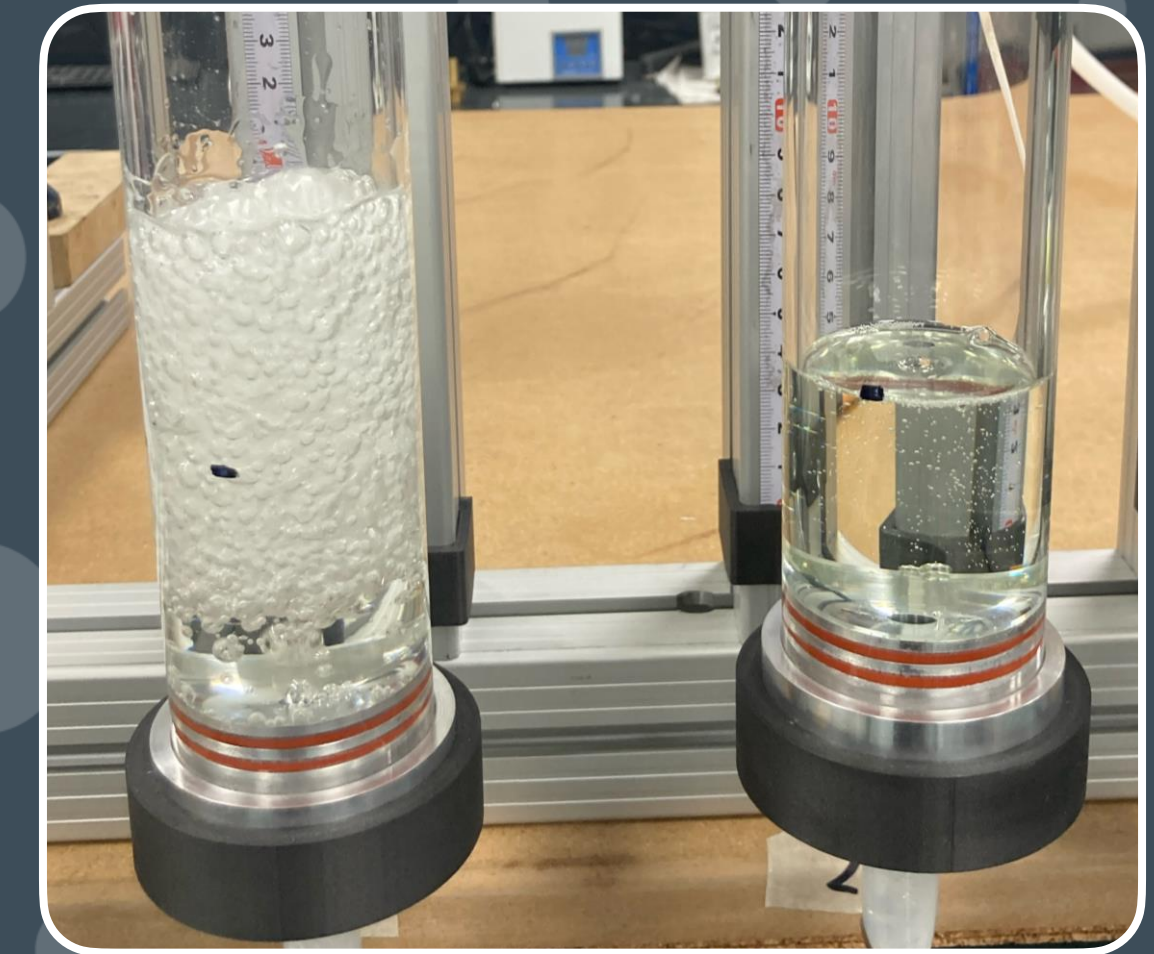
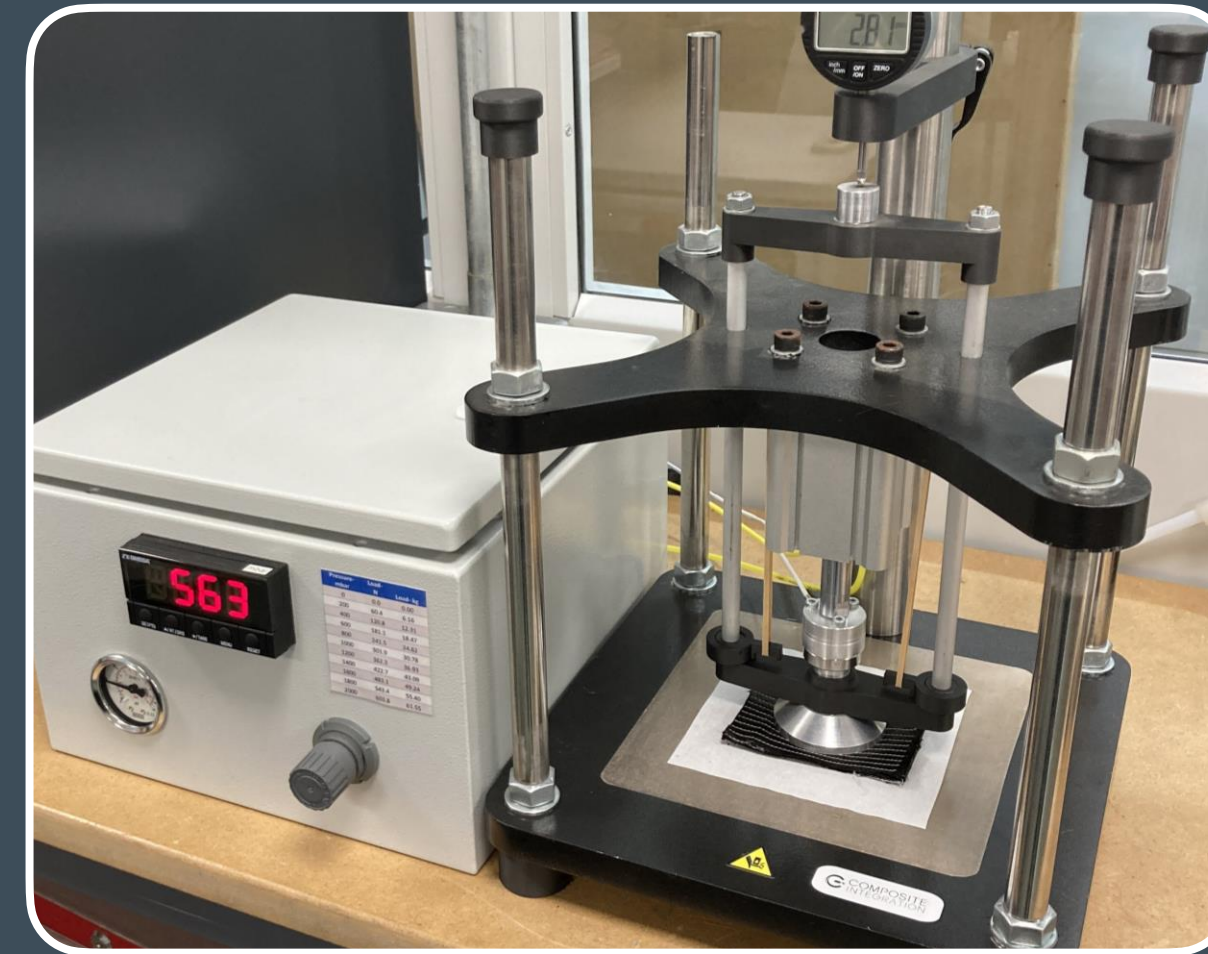
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1. A quick introduction to CI.
2. A brief industrial context (*you know this*).
3. Case studies.
4. A closing challenge.

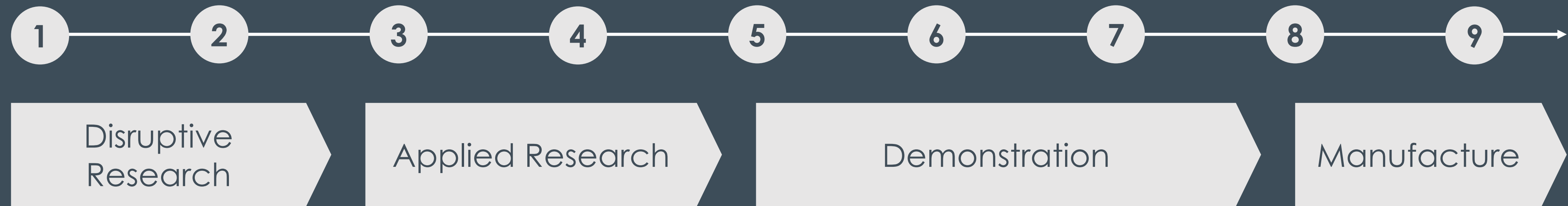
# 1. A quick introduction to CI.



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Technology Readiness Levels (UK).

## 2. A brief industrial context



### Wind



*Quality on bigger blades is critical...*

### Aerospace



*Rate, 2k verification...*

### Marine



*Consistency, cost & waste...*

*Quality, Rate, Sustainability & Cost*

### 3. Case study – Aerospace: Thrust Reverser Door...

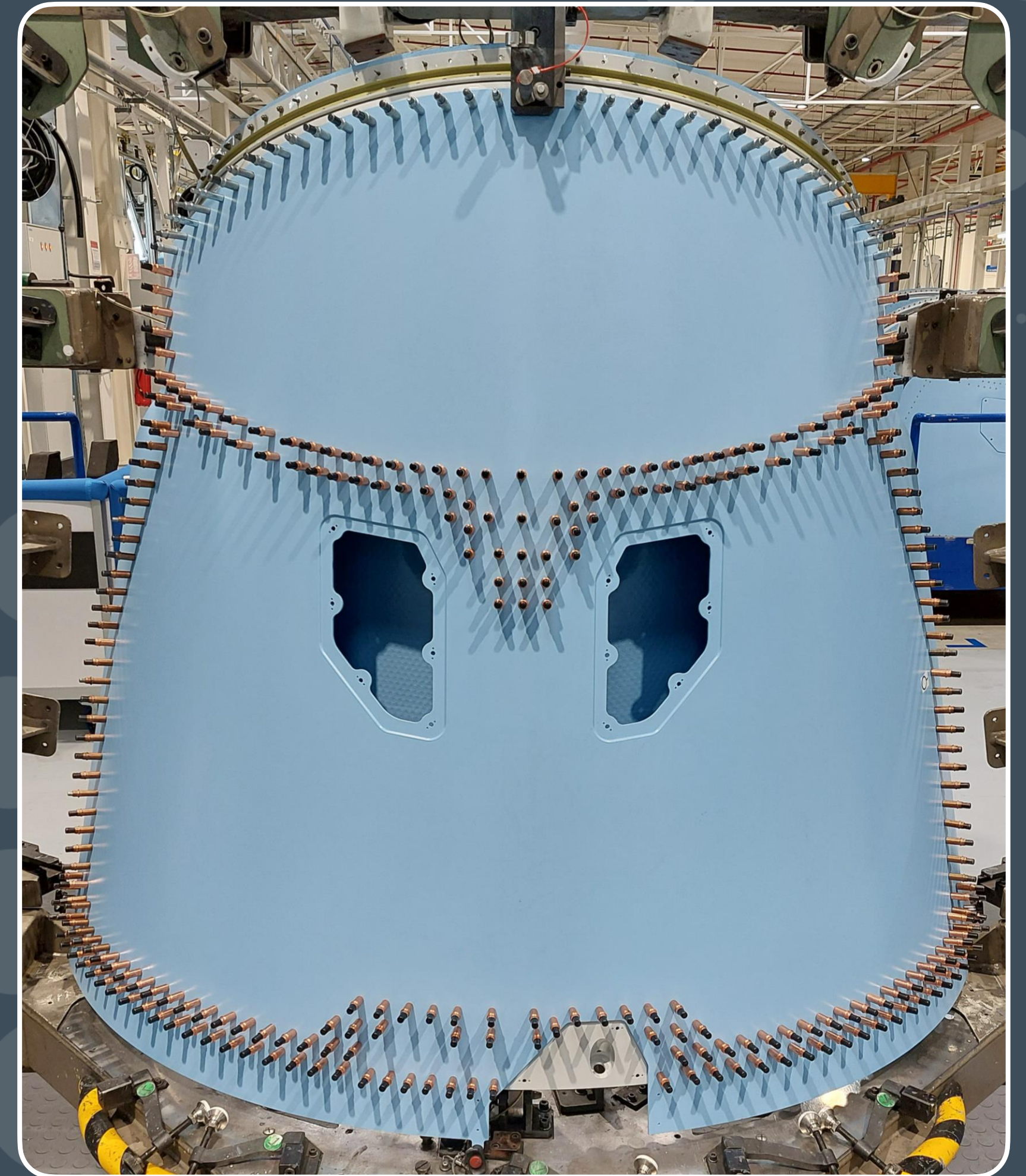
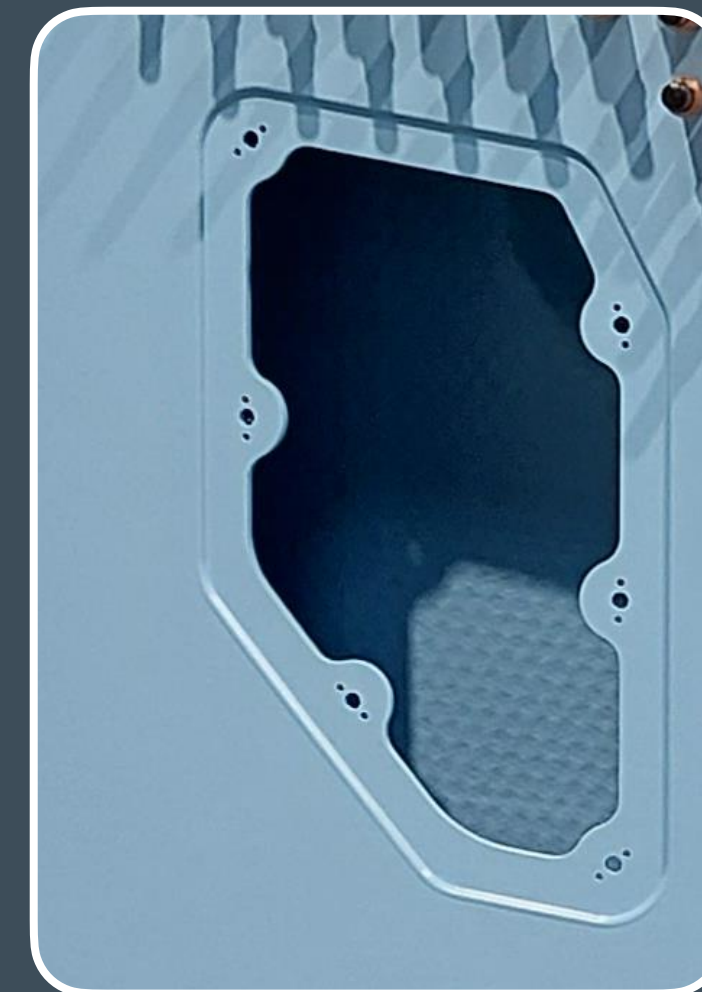


#### *With Safran Nacelles*

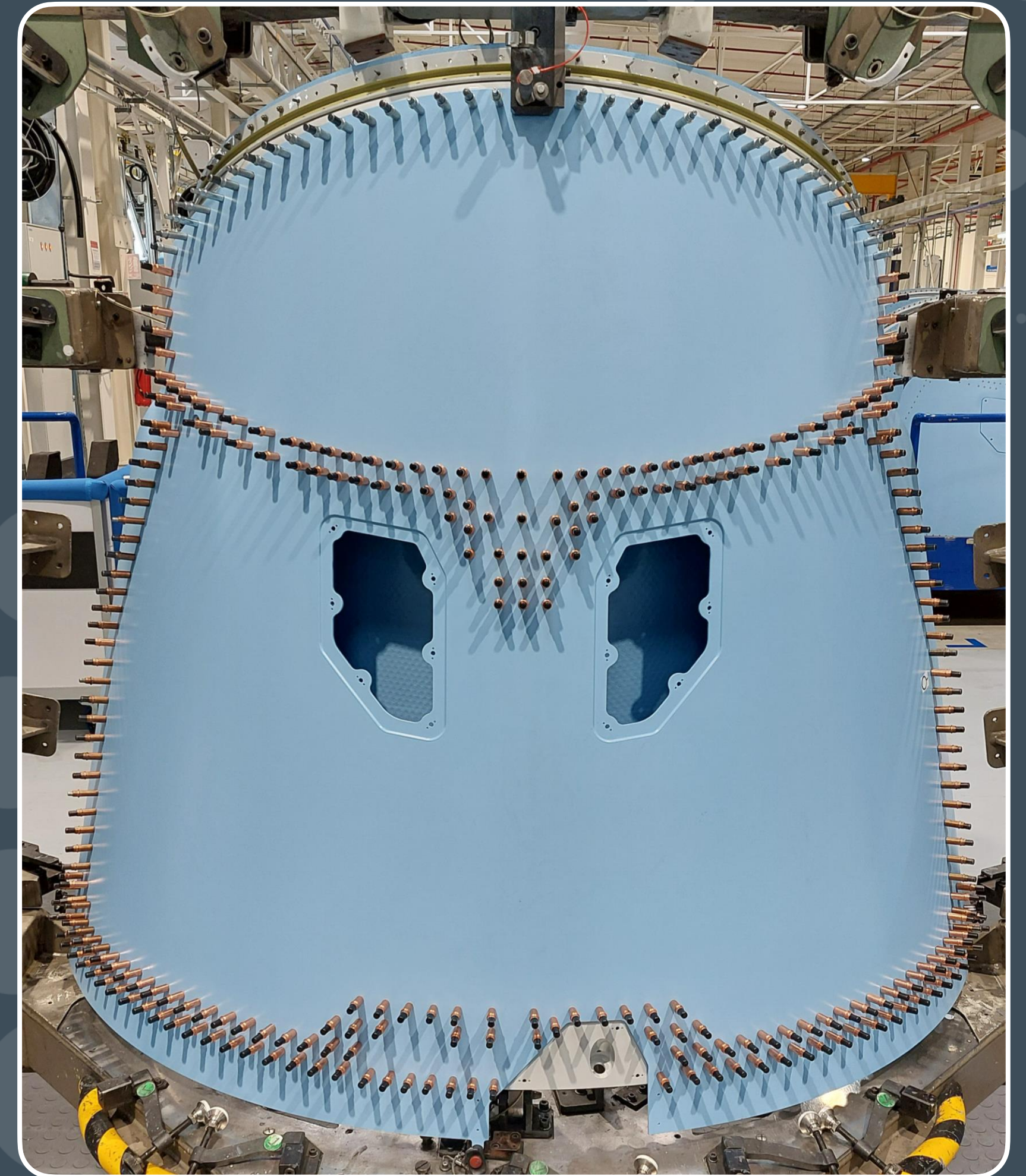
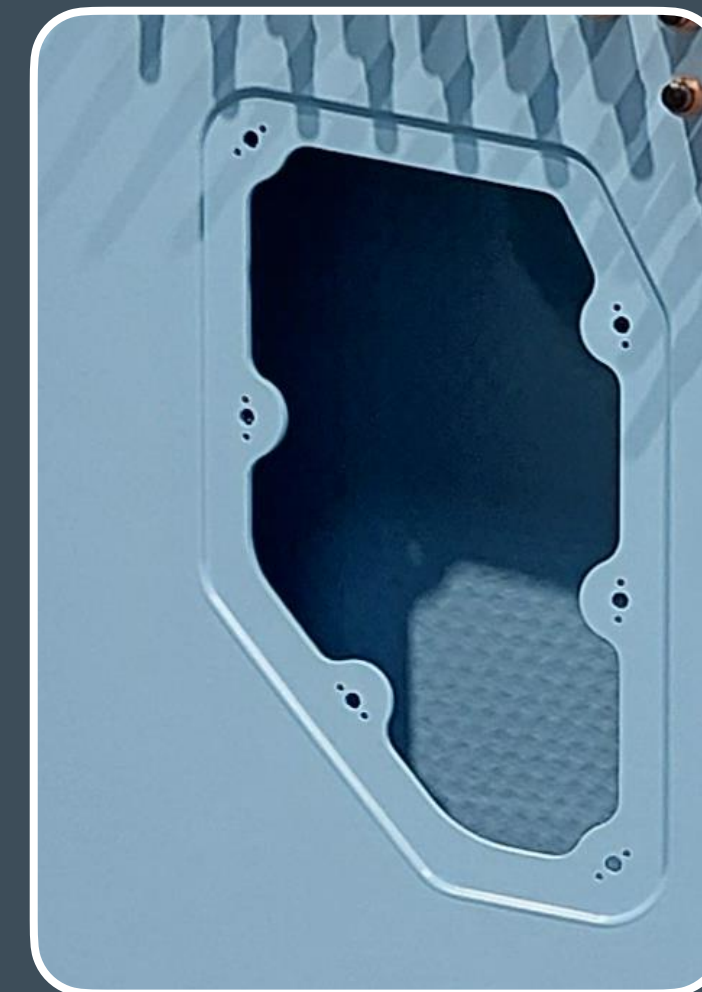


#### *Infused RTM6 vs. Autoclaved Pre-preg*

- *reduced layup time*
- *5% weight saving*
- *60% reduction in carbon footprint*
- *flawless quality*

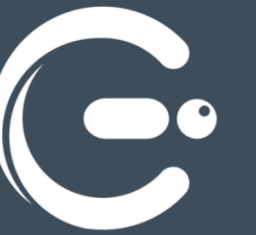


### 3. Case study – Aerospace: Thrust Reverser Door...



#### **Key challenges.**

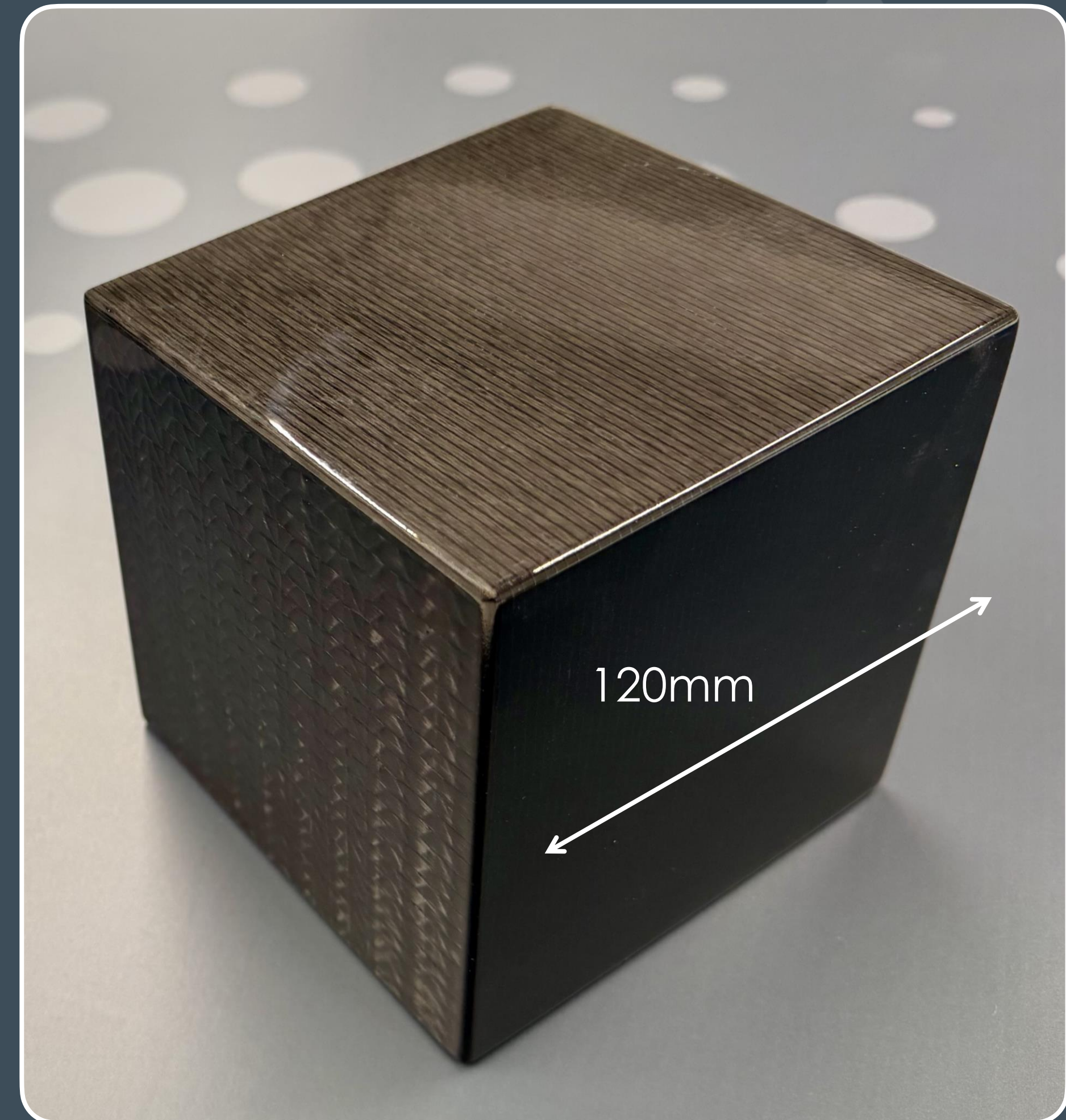
- *repeatability*
- *industrialisation*
- *vacuum housekeeping*



## ***Structural Spar Cap/Appendage.***

### ***Epoxy Resin Infusion.***

- *mostly UD*
- *controlled vf*
- *virtually void free*
- *c240 plies*
- *Gurit Prime 37*

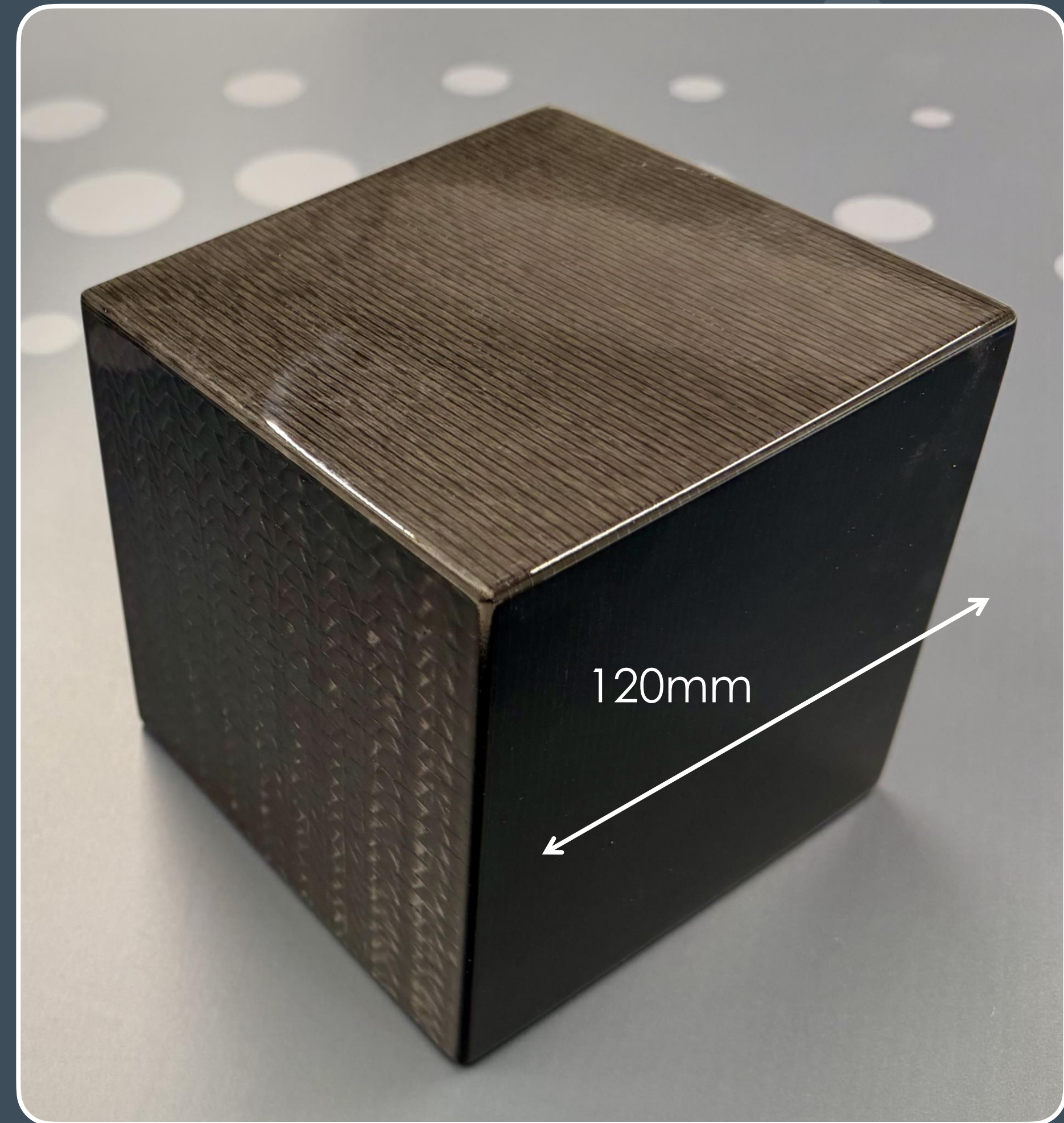


### 3. Case study – **Marine.**

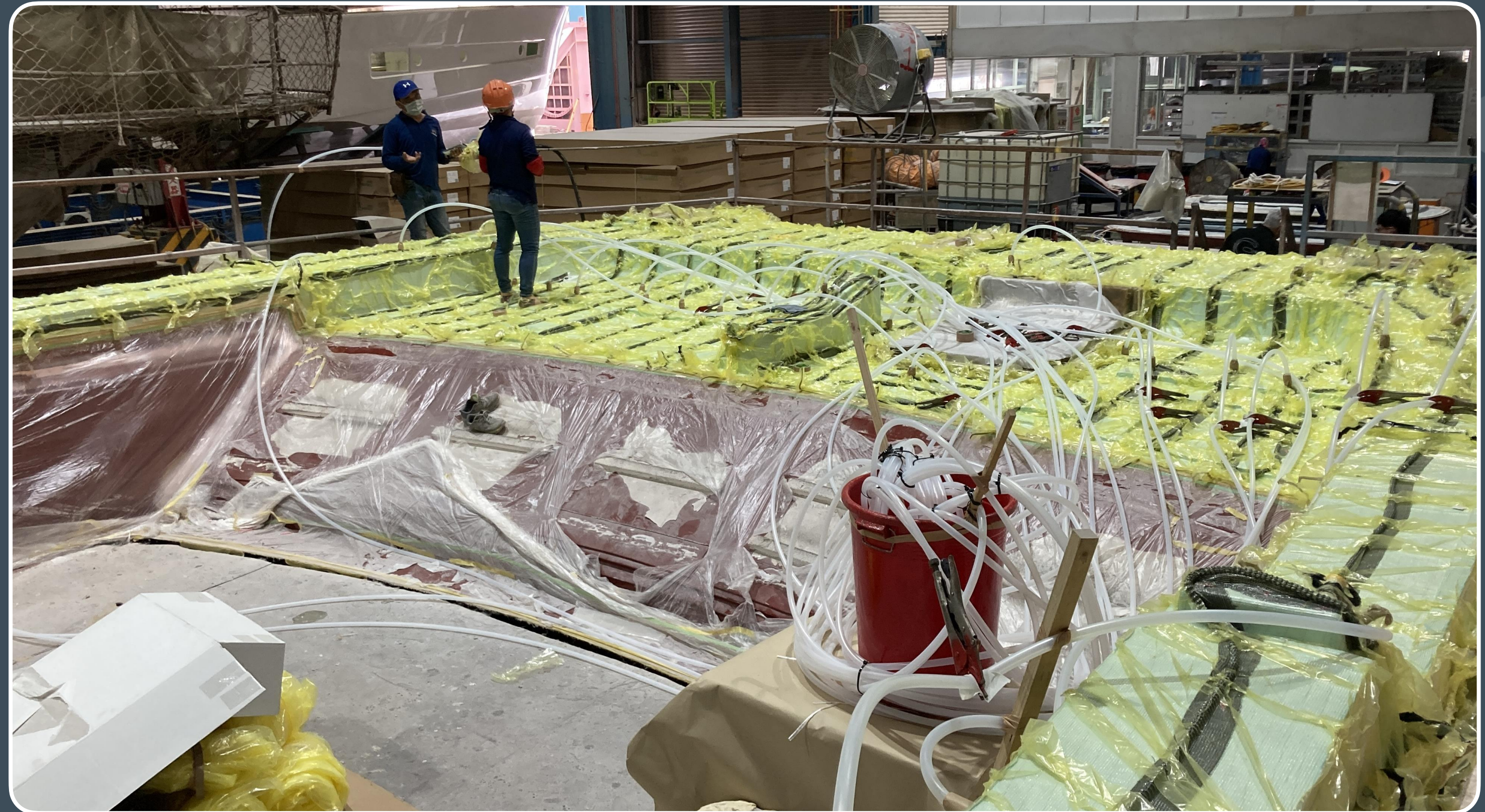


#### **Key challenges.**

- *minimising voids*
- *permeability of UD*
- *good infusion strategy*



### 3. Case study – Marine.



**Key challenge** – *work to your strengths...*

# 3. Case study – Wind.



## AL40 c2002



### 3. Case study – Wind.



AL40  
c2002



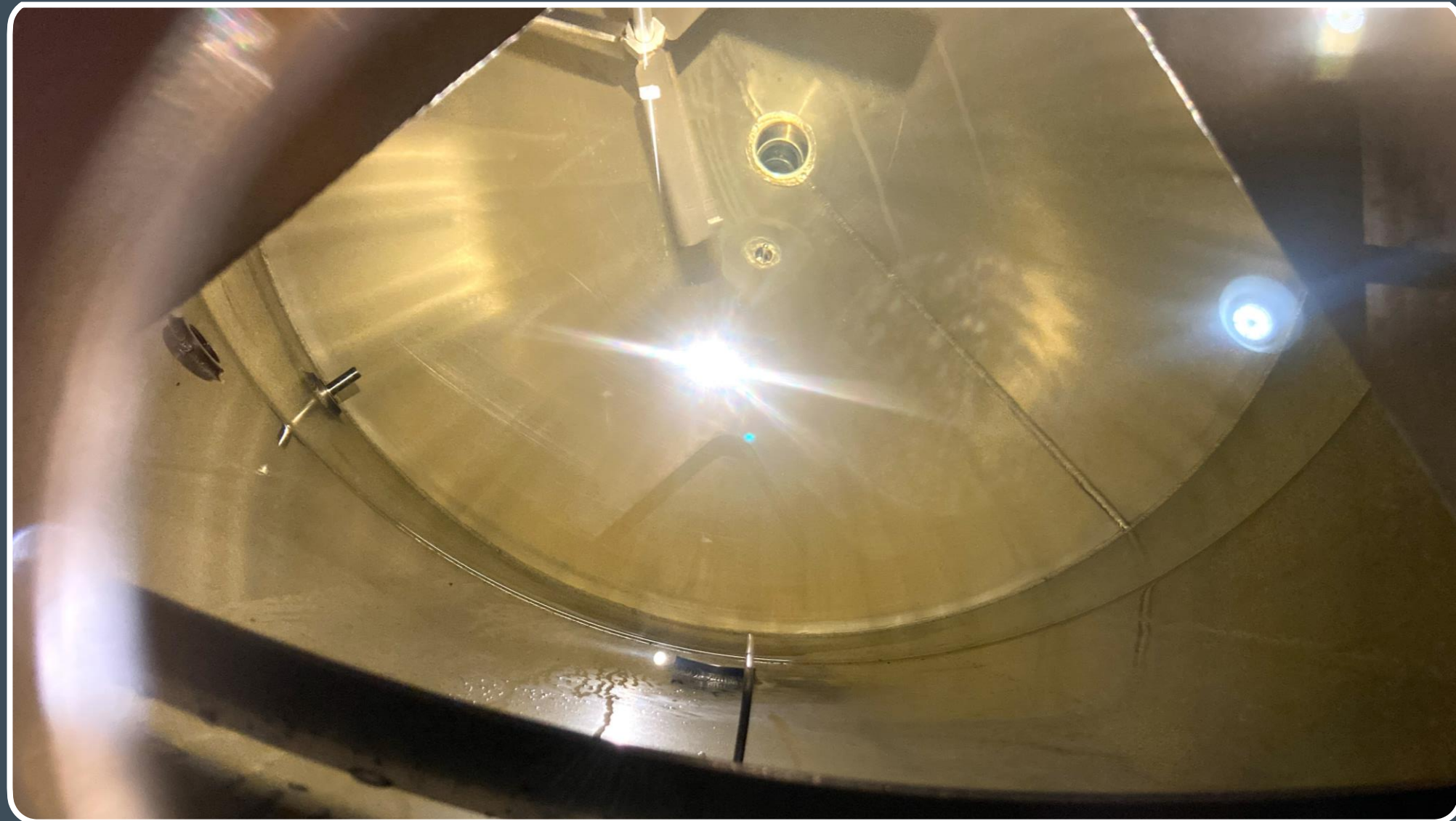
# 3. Case study – Wind.



*Vestas v236 mould*

*Vestas v164 layup*

### 3. Case study – Wind.



#### **Direct Infusion**

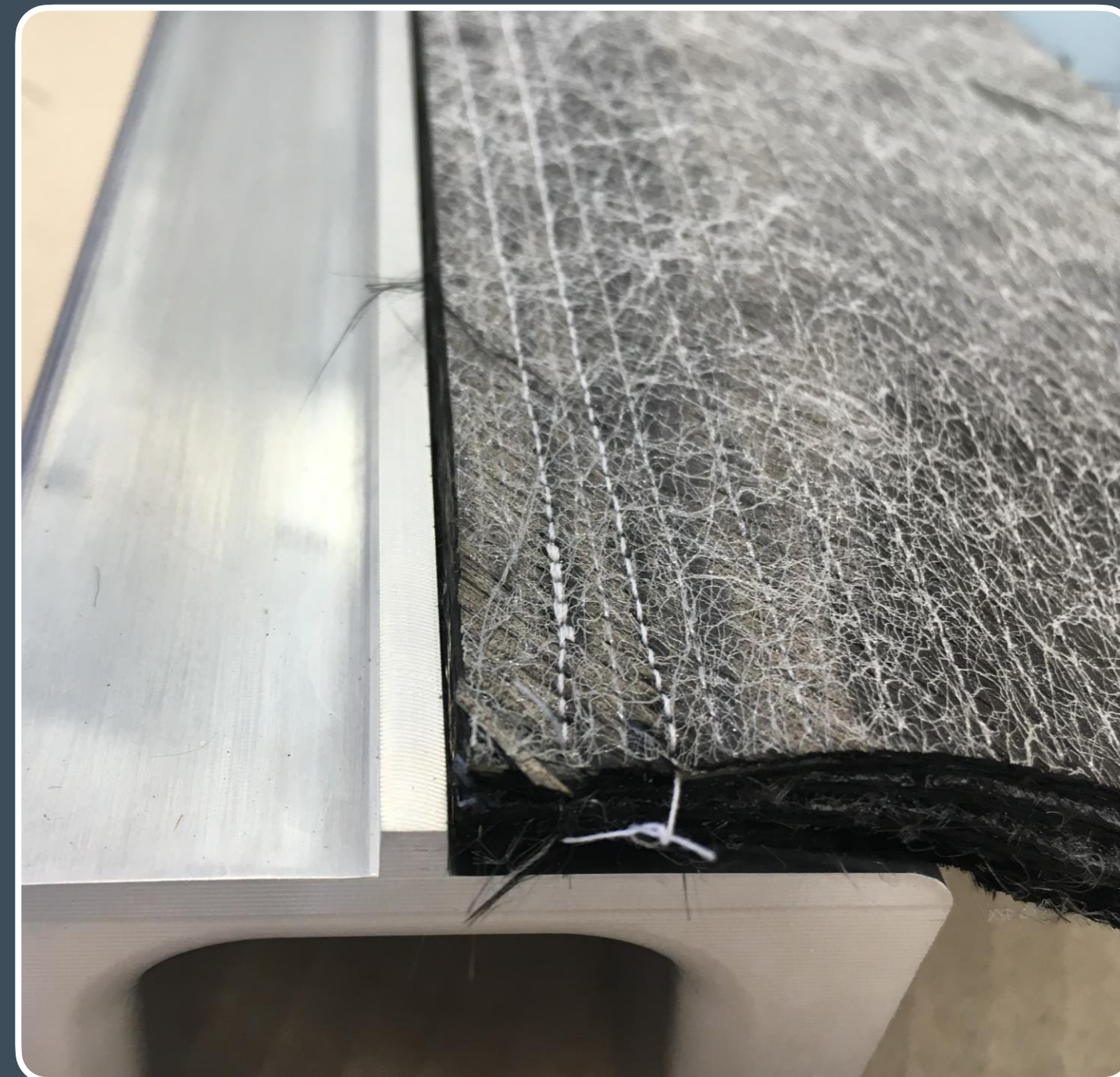
- precise pressure control
- epoxy
- 30kg per min
- degassed & measured



## 4. A closing challenge...



*“you can make an aerospace quality composite in your garage”*



## 4. A closing challenge...



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more **complete**  
understanding

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takes **time**



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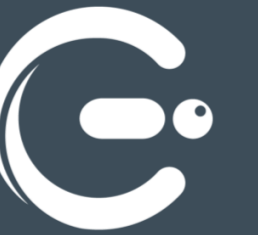
decisions made on  
**partial** understanding

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required **next** week

Quality, Rate, Sustainability & Cost

## 4. A closing challenge...



***Science doesn't need to  
be perfect to make  
(almost) perfect parts...***

***We do need to build  
long term partnerships...***

