

Press Information

Development and Manufacturing Center for Advanced Fiber Placement Technologies founded in Meitingen

- “Fiber Placement Center” equipped with various high-tech machines boosting development expertise along the entire composite value chain (from materials to part/product)
- Cooperation between SGL Group, Fraunhofer IGCV, Compositence GmbH and BA Composites GmbH
- Bilateral projects with aerospace companies, development projects with various automotive companies worldwide and application-specific collaborative projects with system developers

Wiesbaden, February 12, 2018. As part of the material mix of the future, fiber-reinforced plastics are gaining in importance, especially in the automotive and aerospace industries. Continuous further development of fiber processing is crucial; and automated, load-path optimized, material efficient laying and cutting of fibers, referred to as fiber placement, presents a particularly advanced method. To incorporate this production method into more high-volume applications across industries for cost-effectiveness and resource efficiency, SGL Group and Fraunhofer IGCV have now founded a joint Fiber Placement Center headquartered at the SGL location in Meitingen. System manufacturers Compositence GmbH and BA Composites GmbH have also joined the cooperative effort.

Over 500 m² of lab space with different high-tech machines, the new development and manufacturing center offers customers the possibility to develop production concepts and demonstrate their feasibility by prototyping. Furthermore, in the event of a demonstrated cost benefit, SGL Group may implement an industrial production of fiber-reinforced parts. Both dry and pre-impregnated fibers with or without thermoplastic matrix systems will be processed. This work is synergetic to the ongoing R&D activities performed by SGL’s Lightweight and Application Center in Meitingen, the research team from Fraunhofer IGCV in Augsburg and the Chair for Carbon Composites at the Technical University of Munich.

Bilateral projects with aerospace companies for secondary and primary structural parts in various aircraft types are already prepared at the Fiber Placement Center, along with development projects in collaboration with various automotive parts manufacturers worldwide. The Fiber Placement Center will officially launch operations on March 6th, 2018, with the presentation and opening at the JEC World trade fair in Paris.

SGL Group – The Carbon Company
Corporate Communications

Söhnleinstraße 8, 65201 Wiesbaden/Germany
Phone +49 611 6029-100, Fax +49 611 6029-101
E-Mail: press@sglgroup.com / www.sglgroup.com

“Fiber placement enables a high degree of automation in production, while offering high flexibility and extremely efficient material utilization. These technologies, which are already established for aerospace applications, will be transferred into other industrial sectors for highly efficient large-scale production. For many of our customers, this is a promising opportunity to exceed existing process capabilities for serial production of components made from fiber-reinforced plastic,” explains Andreas Wüllner, Head of the Composites – Fibers & Materials Business Unit at SGL Group.

“The Fiber Placement Center clearly reflects the mission of the Fraunhofer Society, to provide substantial support in knowledge transfer to the industry by means of applied research and to advance the industrialization of fiber-reinforced plastics. Fiber placement processes are well suited for future applications due to their high level of automation and material efficiency. These developments benefit significantly from industry-oriented research activities,” adds Dr. Klaus Drechsler, Head of Chair of Carbon Composites at the Technical University of Munich.

About the SGL Group – The Carbon Company

The SGL Group is a leading manufacturer worldwide of products and materials made from carbon. The extensive product portfolio ranges from carbon and graphite products, carbon fibers all the way through to composites. The SGL Group’s core expertise comprises the control of high-temperature technologies as well as the deployment of many years’ application and engineering know-how. This is used to exploit the company’s wide materials base. These carbon-based materials combine a number of unique material properties such as very good conductivity of electricity and heat, resistance to heat and corrosion as well as lightweight construction coupled with high firmness. The level of demand for the SGL Group’s high-performance materials and products is increasing due to the industrialization of the growth regions of Asia and Latin America and the ongoing substitution of traditional construction materials by new materials. The SGL Group’s products are deployed in the automotive and chemicals industries as well as in the semiconductor, solar, LED industry segments and in the field of lithium-ion batteries. Carbon-based materials and products are also used in wind energy, aviation and space travel as well as in the defense industry.

With 32 production locations in Europe, North America and Asia as well as a service network in over 100 countries, the SGL Group is an enterprise with a global orientation. In the 2016 financial year, approx. 4,000 employees generated 769.8 million euros in sales revenue. Its Head Office is based in Wiesbaden / Germany.

Further particulars on the SGL Group can be found in the Newsroom of the SGL Group at www.sglgroup.com/press and at www.sglgroup.com.

About Fraunhofer IGCV

Fraunhofer IGCV is concerned with production-oriented research which is designed to satisfy market needs. Our approach is to combine the expertise in fields of lightweight casting, fiber-reinforced composites, processing technology, automation, holistic factory planning and cost efficiency analysis.

Our competences range from materials sciences, structural mechanics to processing and production. It is our endeavour to reduce the consumption of resources in the manufacturing sector and to gain a

technology lead. For this purpose more than eighty scientists of both genders work for innovations for the industry.

Special attention is put, for example, on providing new designs of hybrid and monolithic lightweight structures as well as the use of multimaterials. This requires advanced engineering methods, manufacturing concepts, joining technologies and new recycling solutions. To accomplish this range of services we combine all our skills in the field of industry 4.0 for a competitive production in the future.

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is the leading organization for applied research in Europe. Its research activities are conducted by 72 institutes and research units at locations throughout Germany. The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft employs a staff of more than 25,000, who work with an annual research budget totaling 2.3 billion euros. Of this sum, almost 2 billion euros is generated through contract research. Around 70 percent of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft's contract research revenue is derived from contracts with industry and from publicly financed research projects. International collaborations with excellent research partners and innovative companies around the world ensure direct access to regions of the greatest importance to present and future scientific progress and economic development.

For further questions please contact:

SGL Group
Söhnleinstrasse 8
65201 Wiesbaden

Fraunhofer IGCV
Am Technologiezentrum 2
86159 Augsburg

Philipp Stieffenhofer
Deputy Spokesperson
Phone: +49 611/6029 104

Eva Kern
Marketing & Öffentlichkeitsarbeit
Phone: +49 821 90678-146

E-Mail: press@sglgroup.com
www.sglgroup.com

E-Mail: Eva.Kern@igcv.fraunhofer.de
<https://www.igcv.fraunhofer.de>

Important note:

To the extent that our press release contains forward-looking statements, the latter are based on information that is available at present and on our current forecasts and assumptions. Forward-looking statements, by their very nature, entail known as well as unknown risks and uncertainties that may lead to actual developments and events differing substantially from the forward-looking assessments. Forward-looking statements must not be understood to be guarantees. Instead, future developments and events depend on a large number of factors; they comprise various risks and imponderables and are based on assumptions that may possibly turn out not to be appropriate. These include unforeseeable changes to fundamental political, economic, legal and societal conditions, particularly in the context of our main customers' industries, such as electric steelmaking, the competitive situation, interest and exchange rate trends, technological developments as well as other risks and uncertainties. We perceive additional risks e.g. in pricing developments, unforeseeable events in the environment of companies acquired and Group member companies as well as in current cost savings programs from time to time. The SGL Group assumes no obligation and does not intend to adjust or otherwise update these forward-looking statements either.