

SGL Group leads UK-funded research project for carbon fibre based components for serial production in the automotive industry

- Development of an enhanced supply chain from SGL Group through engineering design and manufacturing organizations to an automotive end user
- SGL activities driven out of its Muir of Ord site (Scotland)

Wiesbaden, May 31, 2017. SGL Group is leading a consortium of eight UK companies in an 18 month Research and Development project to produce lightweight carbon fiber composite components for the automotive industry. The project titled “Thermoplastic Overmoulding of Structural Composites for Automotive Applications” (TOSCAA) aims to develop the technology of thermoplastic components for automotive serial production among all levels of the value chain, from SGL Group to automotive end users, represented in this project by Jaguar Land Rover.

The overall TOSCAA expenditure is £2.8 million with total funding of £2.1 million by Innovate UK, the UK’s innovation agency. SGL’s share of investment is just under £0.6 million, receiving 50% support. The key role of SGL in the consortium is to provide carbon fiber composite raw materials based on a thermoplastic matrix. These materials include long fiber tapes and sheets together with short fiber compounds for overmoulding, recycled fiber materials and continuous fiber based materials.

The carbon fibers are produced at SGL’s manufacturing site Muir of Ord (near Inverness), further support comes from the company’s newly established Lightweight and Application Centre (LAC) in Meitingen, Germany. This includes know-how and engineering expertise as well as providing unidirectional tapes and organic sheets. The materials are used to develop new and innovative composite designs and to manufacture prototypes for structural components within existing car models. This will demonstrate the suitability of such composites for these demanding applications and open the door for future exploitation.

Dr. Grant Andrews, Technology Manager at SGL Group in Muir of Ord: “With TOSCAA our expertise in using carbon fibers in thermoplastic composites will grow and it will enable us to improve our support for all our customers using carbon fibers in the automotive sector as well as in other innovative applications. Thermoplastic components combine important advantages such as short cycle times, weldability, repairability and recycling.”

The other partners of the project bridge the supply chain between SGL and Jaguar Land Rover whilst each of them provides a different area of expertise. They are Surface Generation (advanced processing technology), Engenuity (design, modeling, testing), Nifco (injection molding expertise), University of Nottingham (composites process modeling), Advanced Manufacturing

Research Centre (AMRC) at University of Sheffield (novel materials processing) and LMAT UK (cost modeling).

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 33 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/presse and at www.sglgroup.com.

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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.

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