

# LEVERAGING PREDICTIVE MANUFACTURING TECHNIQUES TO DE-RISK AND ACCELERATE COMPOSITE DESIGN

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Victrex (TxV Aero Composites) / Hexagon / MCS Software

# #1 PEEK EXPERTS

40+ Years since the invention of PEEK, with Victrex as the first to commercialise this exceptional thermoplastic



## FACTS & FIGURES

WE BRING TRANSFORMATIONAL SOLUTIONS THAT ADDRESS WORLD MATERIAL CHALLENGES EVERY DAY

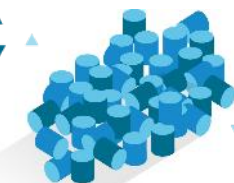


### POLYMER MANUFACTURING

Delivering the key PEEK & PAEK materials with No.1 manufacturing capacity of 7,150 tonnes



### DIFFERENTIATE THROUGH INNOVATION TO CREATE NEW MARKETS



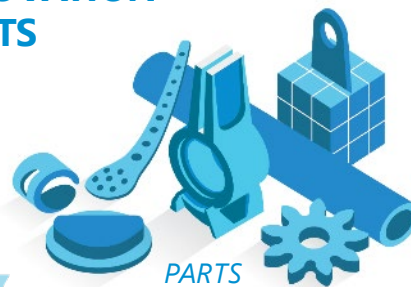
POLYMER

Pioneering new grades Including for Composites & Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing)



PRODUCT FORMS

Manufacturing product forms: Pipes, Films, Fibres and Composite Tapes



PARTS

Developing new applications for PEEK, PAEK and Thermoplastic Composites

### A WORLD LEADER IN VALUE CREATION THROUGH PEEK AND PAEK-BASED POLYMER SOLUTIONS

Enabling customers to develop sustainable solutions and overcome complex design & engineering challenges across 6 key markets



### GLOBAL OPERATIONS

900+

Employees waking up every day focused on PEEK

40+

Countries served by Victrex across our markets

circa £2bn

Market Value

- FTSE 250 Company
- c£300m Revenue



### INVESTMENT IN INNOVATION

~5%









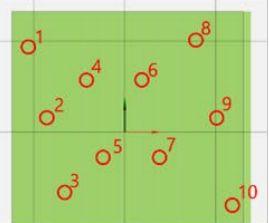
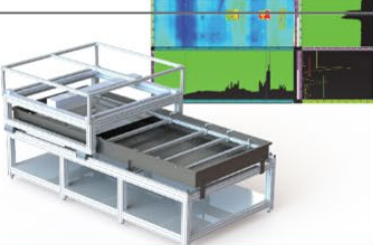


of annual sales invested in R&D

#### Expanded capabilities through Polymers, Forms & Parts

- Polymer Capacity
- Composites UD Tape
- Fibres
- Injection Moulding
- MAGMA pipe
- Gear Solutions
- Aerospace Parts
- Additive Manufacturing
- Medical Components

\* PEEK = Poly Ether Ether Ketone  
PAEK = Poly Aryl Ether Ketone  
Based on Victrex 2019 Annual Report

# Composite Part Manufacturing Overview

<b>Step 1 Automated Tape Laying</b>	<b>Step 2 Rapid Consolidation</b>	<b>Step 3 Automated Forming</b>	<b>Step 4 Injection Overmolding</b>
 <p>AE™ 250 or TC1225 Tape Input</p>	 <p>Tailored Layup Input</p>	 <p>Consolidated Laminate Input Forming Tooling</p>	 <p>PEEK Injection Molding Pellets &amp; Formed Part Inputs Injection Molding Tooling</p>
 <p>Tailored Layup Output</p>	 <p>Consolidated Laminate Output</p>	 <p>Formed Part Output</p>	 <p>Hybrid Part Output</p>
 <p>Inline Manual Ply Gap Inspection</p>	 <p>Offline Automated Ultrasonic Inspection</p>	 <p>Offline Manual Ultrasonic Inspection</p>	 <p>Offline CMM and Manual Ultrasonic Inspection</p>

# Smart Factories

that learn and adapt quickly to changing conditions in real time, pursuing perfect quality with optimized design, requiring fewer inputs and producing zero waste

## SUSTAINABLE VALUE CREATION

- Fewer inputs
- Zero waste
- Perfect quality



# HEXAGON

empowering an autonomous future

## Did you know?

Each year, Hexagon technology touches:

- **75%** of cars produced
- **90%** of aircraft produced
- **85%** of smartphones produced

We have expertise in and connect all stages of the manufacturing lifecycle:

### DESIGN AND ENGINEERING (CAE)

Optimise designs and ensure manufacturability

### PRODUCTION (CAD/CAM)

Deliver on design intent and product quality with minimal waste

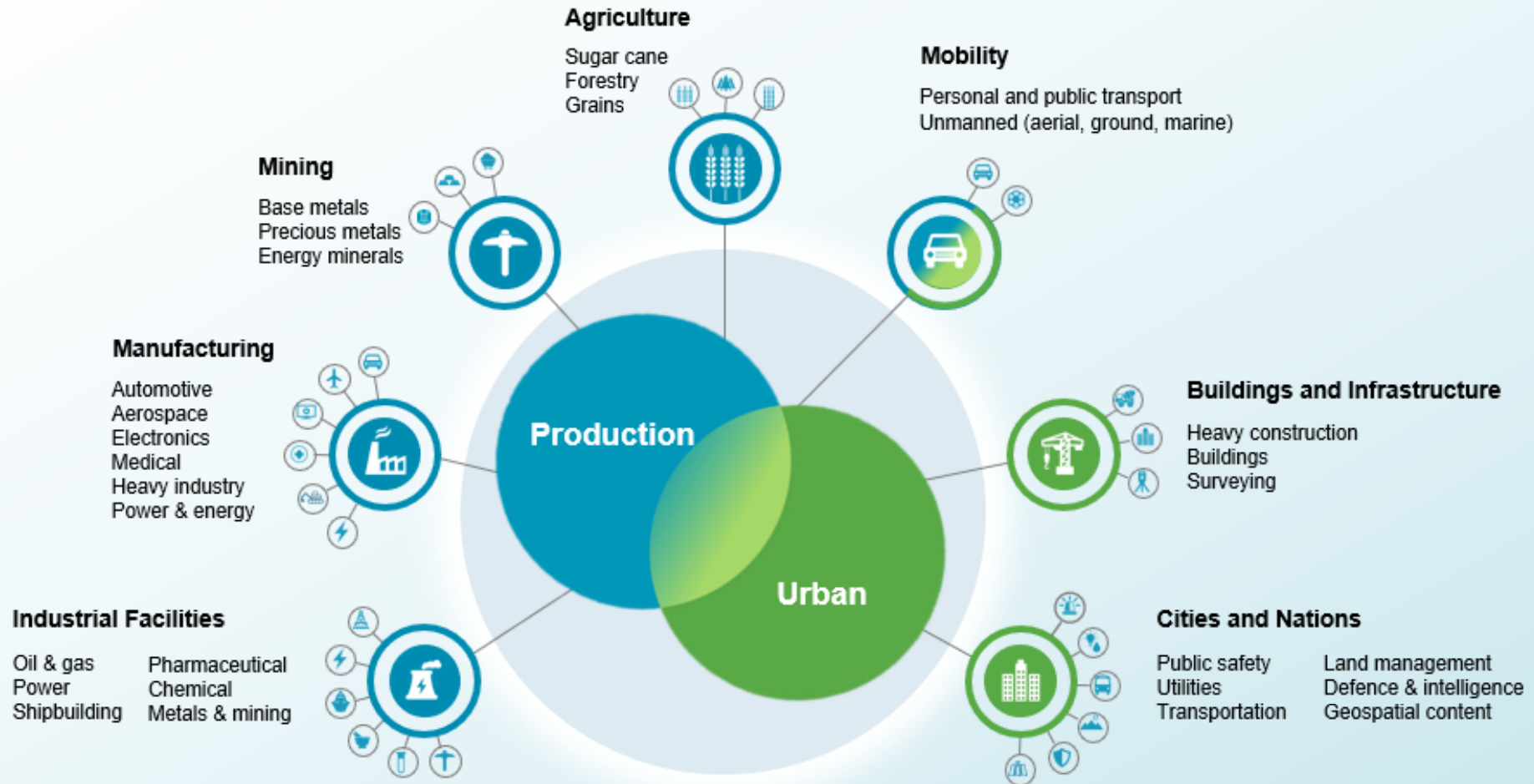
### METROLOGY HARDWARE/SOFTWARE

Capture real-world data for positioning and inspection



# Customers served

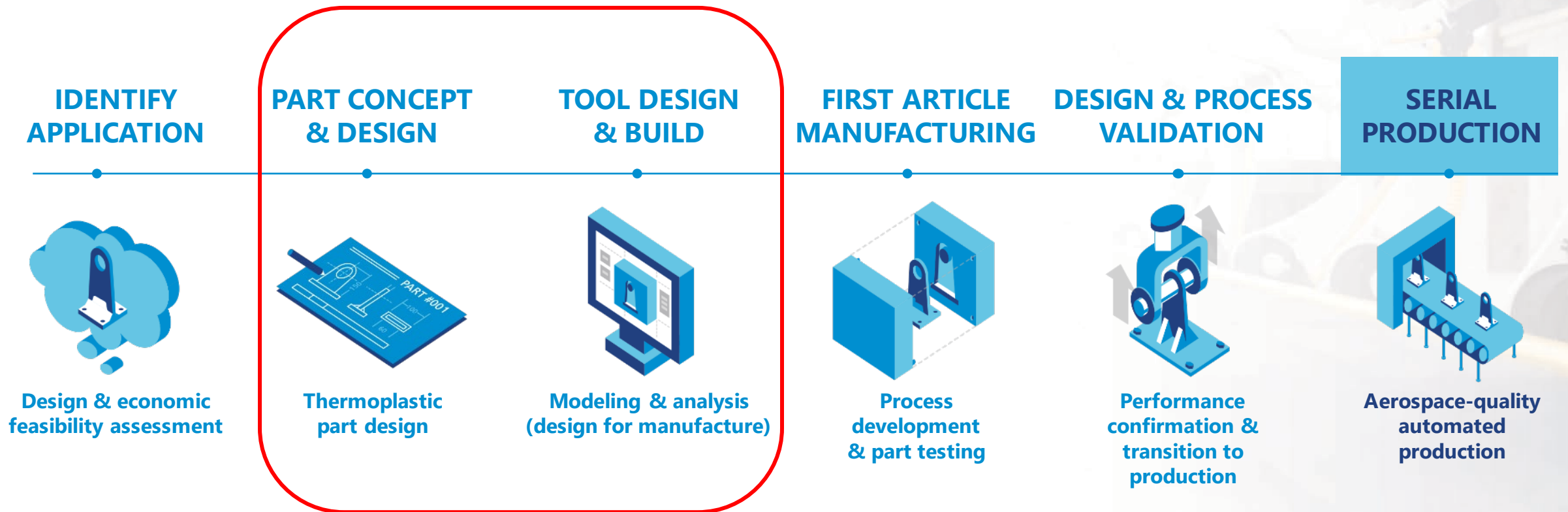
## Ecosystems vs. markets



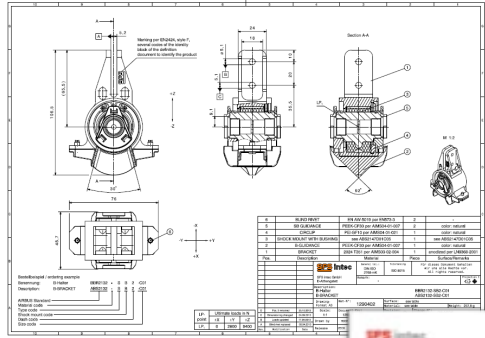
# Helping Current Market Trends Materials for faster, lighter, greener mobility



# Customer Journey Concept to manufacturing

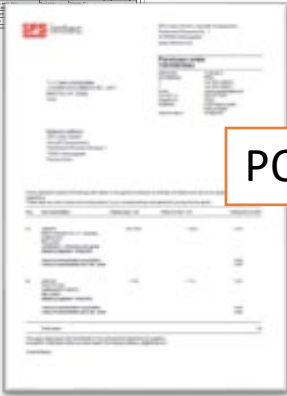


# Part Journey

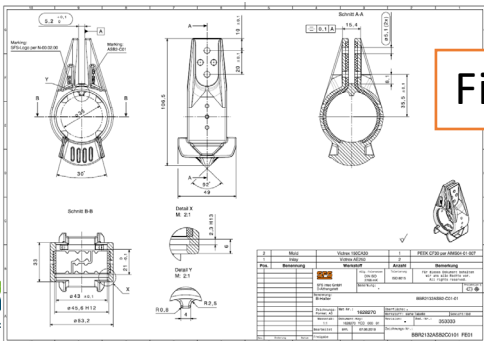


Customer

RFQ & Drawing

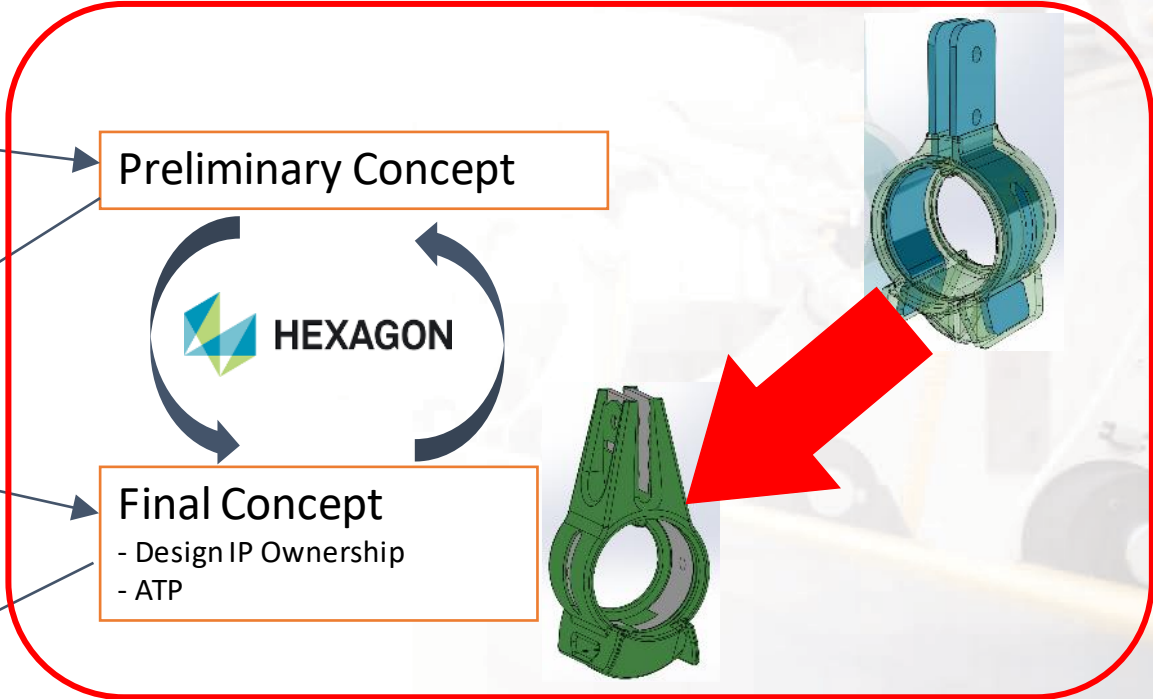


PO & Feedback



Final Drawing

Victrex / TxV

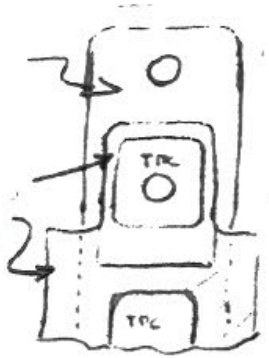


Parts & Testing





# Capabilities



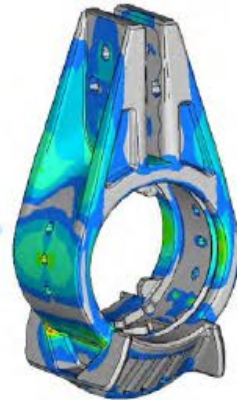
## DESIGN FEASIBILITY

Initial assessment of how well a composite design is expected to deliver against application requirements and project objectives.



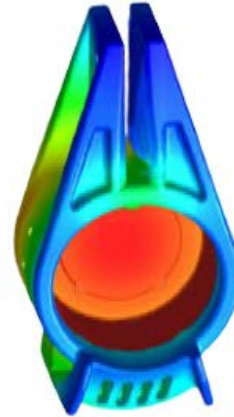
## DIGITAL MODELING

Initial creation of a digital twin is used to represent the composite part design and provide confirmation that requirements have been understood.



## OPTIMIZATION

Analytical tools are used to optimize the part design to meet the application demands and see how design choices impact results.



## PROCESS SIMULATION

Advanced simulation tools are used to see how design choices impact manufacturability.



## PROTOTYPING

First parts are produced to verify manufacturability and validate part performance.

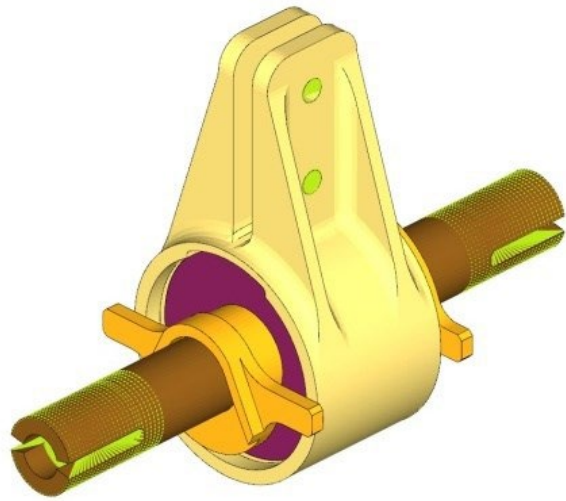


## COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION

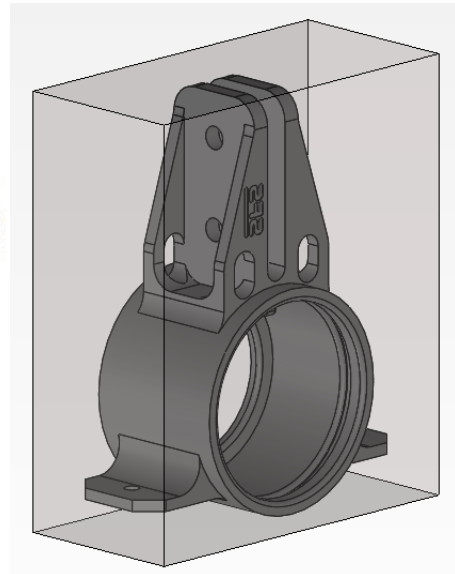
APQP framework, production quality tooling, and automated equipment allows for a seamless transition to commercial production.

# Define the Problem

## SFS A350 B-bracket case study



Need for cost and weight reduction



Buy-to-Fly of 10.6 : 1



# Understanding the Part

## Understanding the problem

- Customer Q&A
- What problem does it solve?
- Usage & intent?
- Loading in use, during testing?
- Design limitations / space envelope?
- Installation?
- Compromises were made for incumbent materials?
- Compromises made due to manufacturing method?

**B - Bracket**

11) Is this radius required? How sharp can this be?  
min R0

12) Can v  
max.

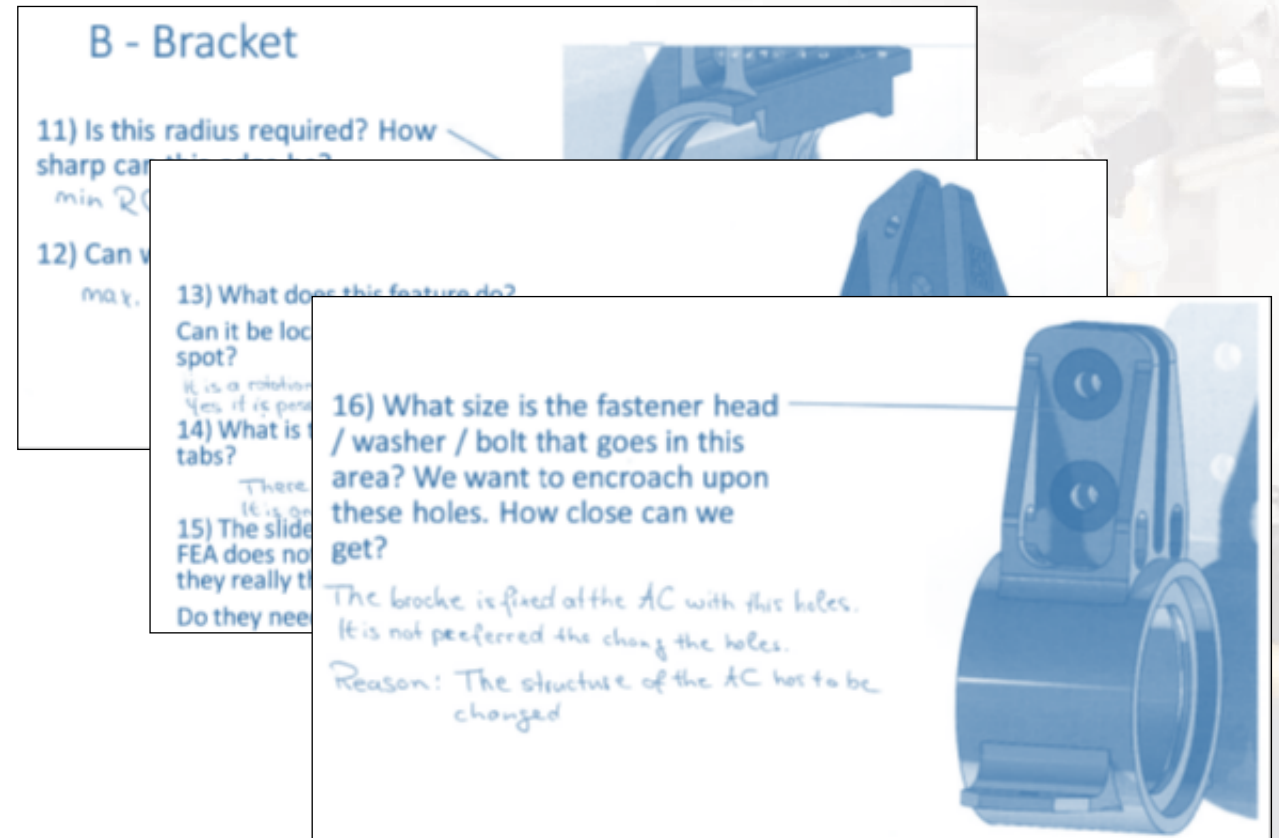
13) What does this feature do?  
Can it be loc  
spot?  
It is a rotation  
Yes, if is per

14) What is t  
tabs?  
There.  
It is on

15) The slide  
FEA does not  
they really t  
Do they need

16) What size is the fastener head / washer / bolt that goes in this area? We want to encroach upon these holes. How close can we get?

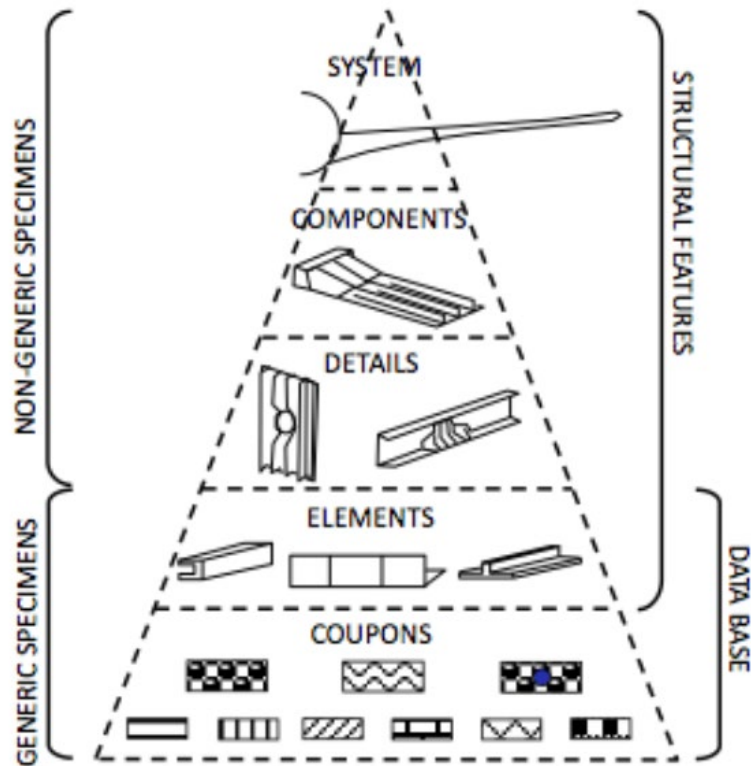
The broche is fixed at the AC with this holes. It is not preferred to change the holes.  
Reason: The structure of the AC has to be changed



In-depth knowledge used to create a parallel solution

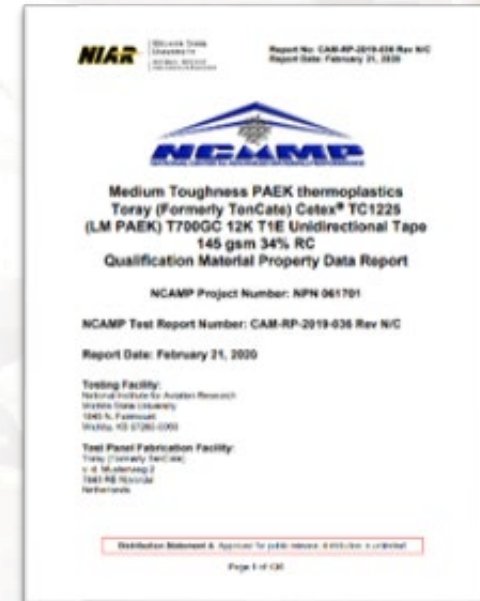
# Path to Certification Begins with materials

Designing with certification in mind from the onset



Raw materials with allowables database

- UD Tape
- Injection molded plastic
- Repeatable manufacturing processes
- Long life tooling
- Documentation
- ERP based quality system



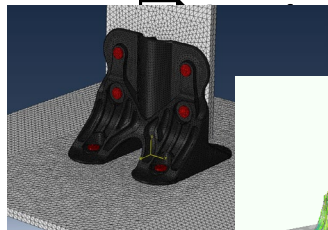


# Using Efficiently Materials in Parts Development

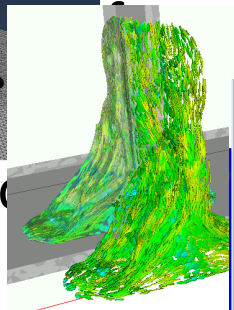
## Could we develop lightweight component faster & lower cost?

### Industry needs

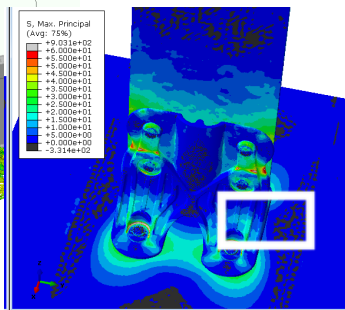
- Lightweight vs Performance
- Predictive simulation



icipate

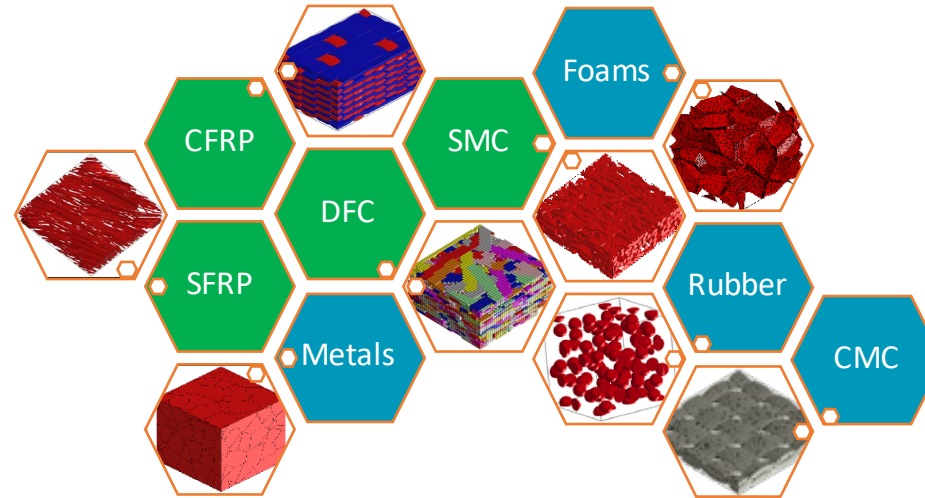


g issue



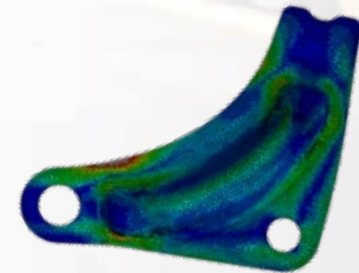
Failure of CF/PEEK T-Bracket

### Materials & Applications

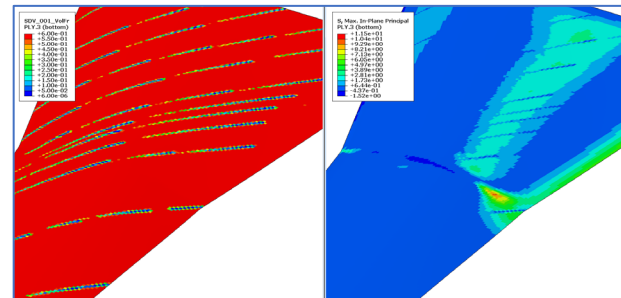


### What ICME enables

- Multiscale predictive FEA
- Account for local microstructure induced by manufacturing
- Account for manufacturing defect
- Virtual prototyping
- Weight reduction (up to 40%)
- Reduce cost of changes by 70%
- Design to cost & to manufacturing



Performance of CF/PEEK part after forming



Effects of gaps on aircraft wing skin made by AFP

# Materials Description

## Materials used for inserts and overmold

### Overmold

Injected polymer (Fiber reinforced) - Isotropic

- E = 21300 MPa
- Poisson's ratio = 0.4
- Density = 1200kg/m<sup>3</sup>
- Yield = 200 MPa

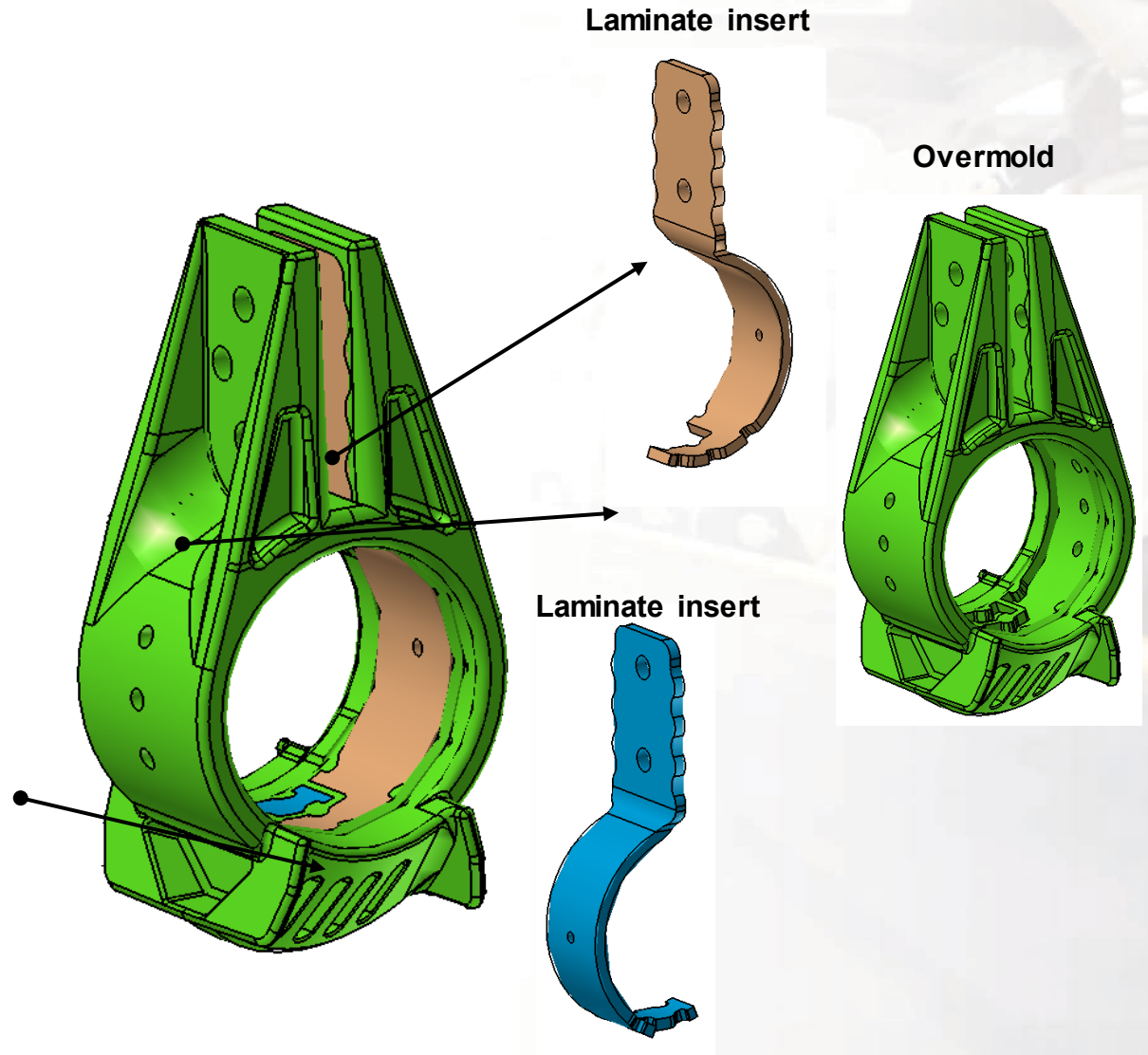
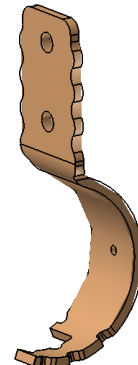
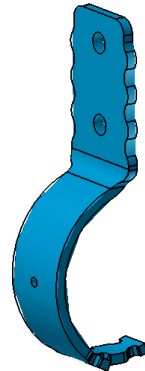


### Inserts

Laminate with the following ply layup

Ply Layup

Ply	Orientation (+/-1°)
1	0
2	-25
3	0
4	25
5	0
6	0
7	-25
8	0
9	25
10	25
11	0
12	-25
13	0
14	0
15	25
16	0
17	-25
18	0



# CAE Tools Used

## Steps identified for realistic simulation:

1. Part geometry clean-up for adequate meshing
2. Positioning and orientation of the different geometry (Overmold, insert, ...)
3. Part geometry adaptation and simplifications (Mid-plane, geometry feature changes, ...)
4. Meshing
5. Material application
6. Laminate generation
7. Boundary conditions + Loading application
8. Contact interactions
9. Injection molding simulation for fiber orientation (Geometry modifications done during Step 3)
10. Fiber orientation transfer
11. Fiber reinforced material model definition
12. Simulation/Solving
13. Post-processing

Pre-processor/CAD

Pre-processor

ICME/Material modeling

Solver

Post-processor



# CAE Tools Used

Tools for all simulation steps available through Hexagon/MSC

Pre-processor/CAD

Pre-processor

ICME/Material modeling

Solver/coupling

Post-processor



MSC Apex



Marc Mentat



Digimat

Moldex3D



Marc Mentat



Marc Mentat

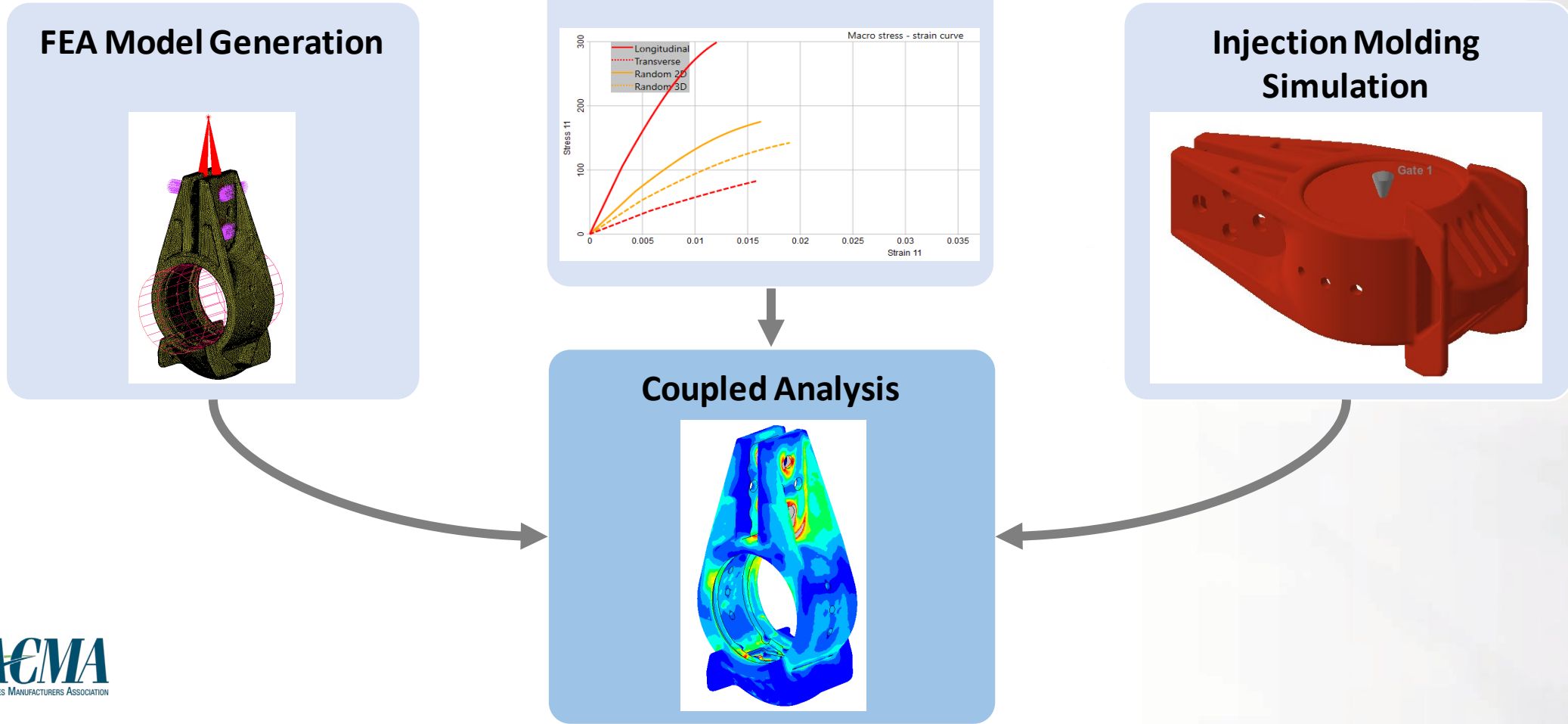


Moldex3D



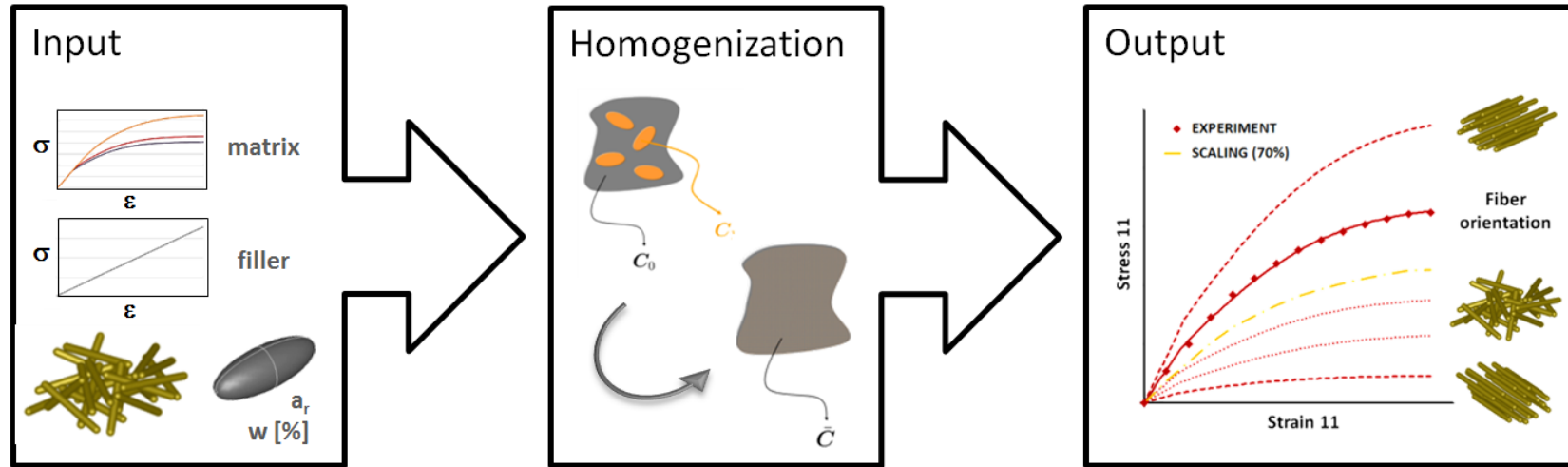
# Multi-Scale Analysis Workflow

Integral computational materials engineering:  
Connecting Process <=> Materials <=> Performance



# Multi-Scale Modeling Workflow

Material models adapted to both microstructures and loading conditions

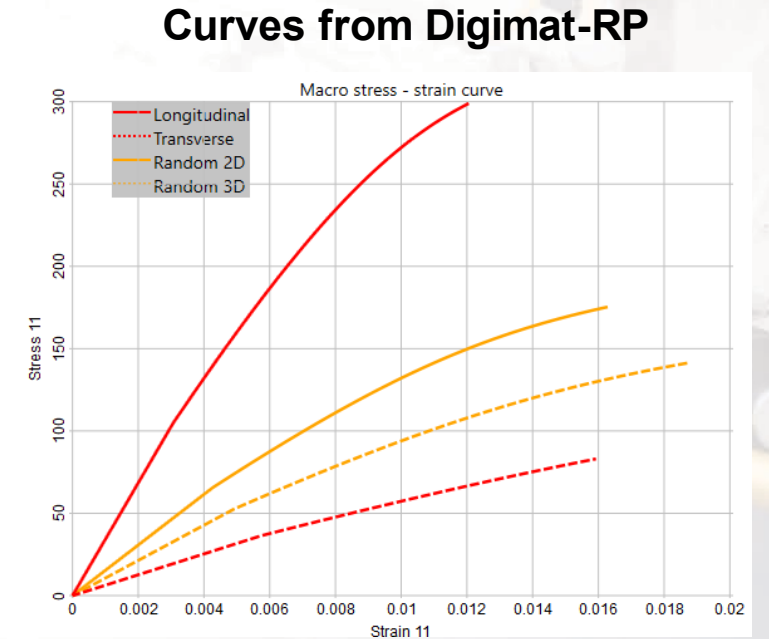
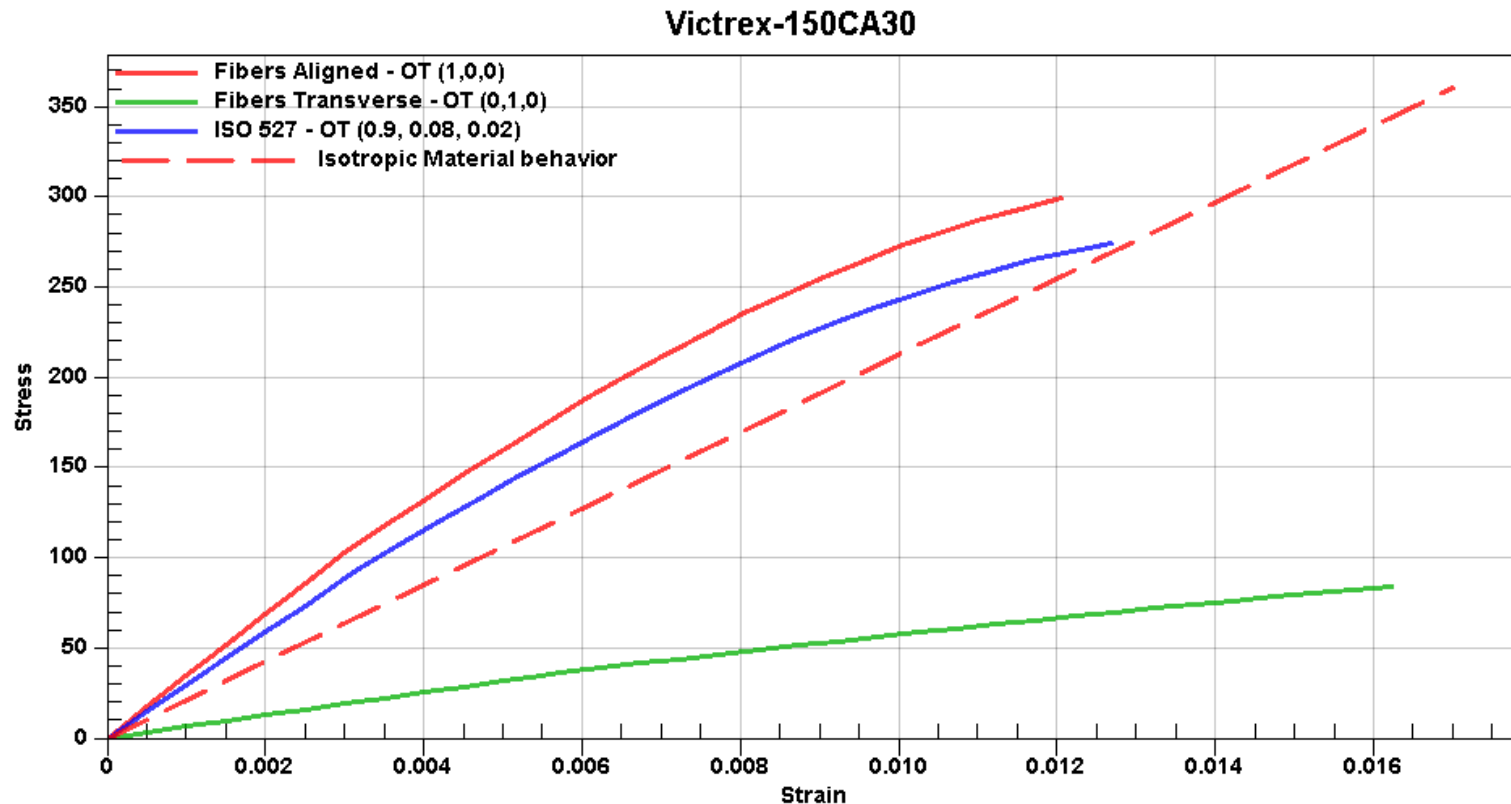


- Composite material is described at the micro level
  - Matrix material model
  - Fiber material model
  - Microstructure: Fiber orientation tensor, fiber shape and fiber volume fraction
- Homogenization methods are used to calculate macroscopic anisotropic behavior from microstructure information

# Digmat Material Model Behavior Review

## Isotropic material behavior vs. extreme fiber alignment behavior

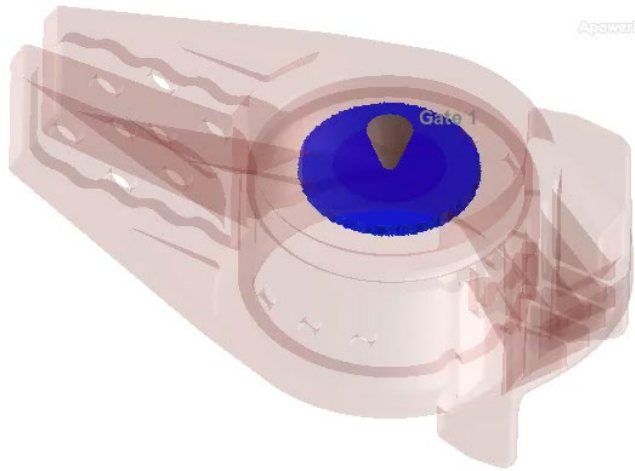
- The curves below highlights where the behavior of Victrex-150CA30 material model calibrated for Victrex
  - NOTE: The ISO 527 microstructure isn't necessarily representative of what you will find in the part being injected



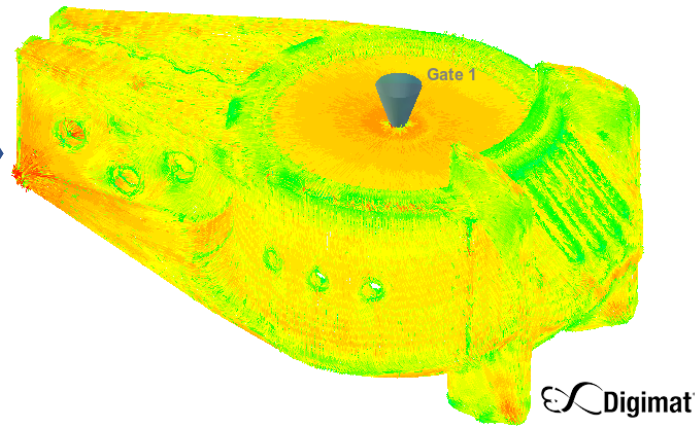
# Injection Molding Simulation – Fiber Orientation

## Melt front animation for flow visualization & fiber orientation

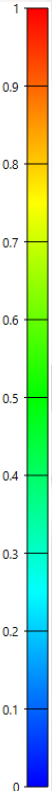
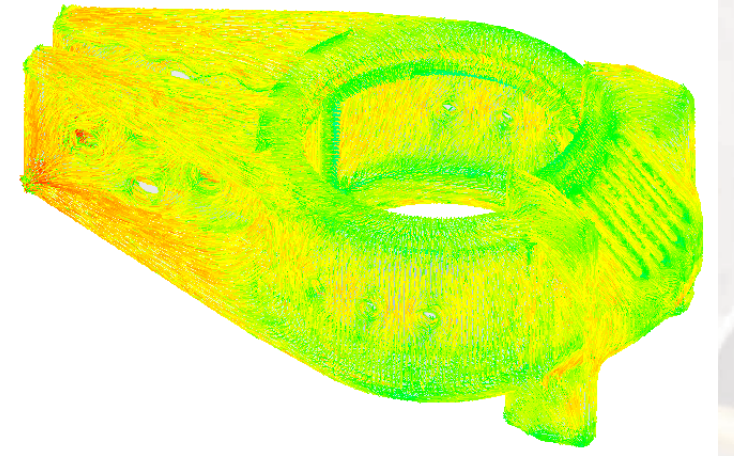
Melt Front animation



Local Fiber Orientation

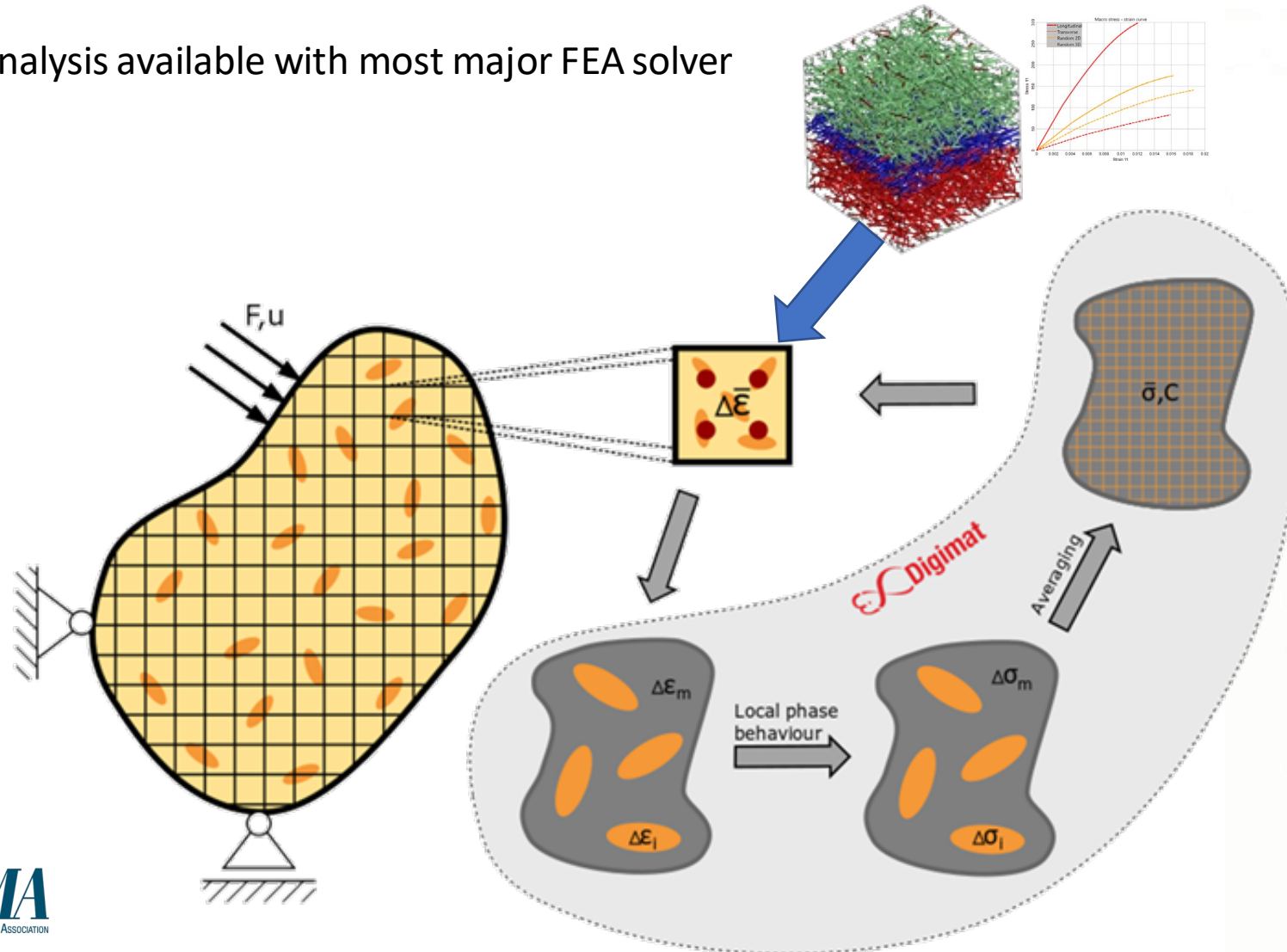


Fiber Orientation Mapped on FEA Model



# Multi-Scale Modelling Approach Coupling with FEA codes via subroutines

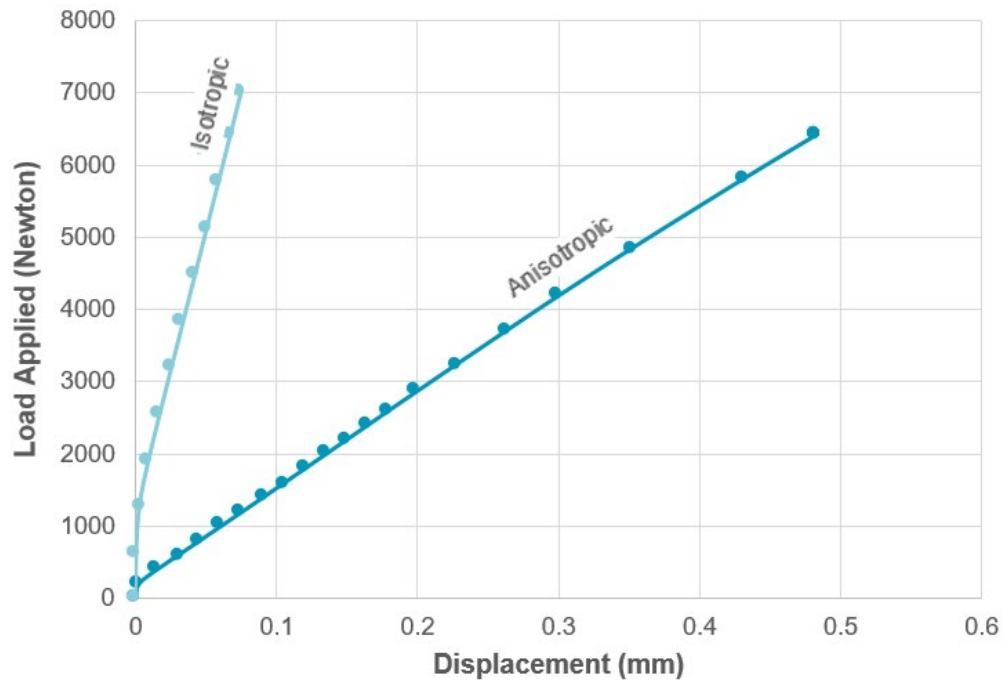
Coupled analysis available with most major FEA solver



# Part Stiffness Comparison – Isotropic vs. Anisotropic

## How using fiber orientation may influence the results

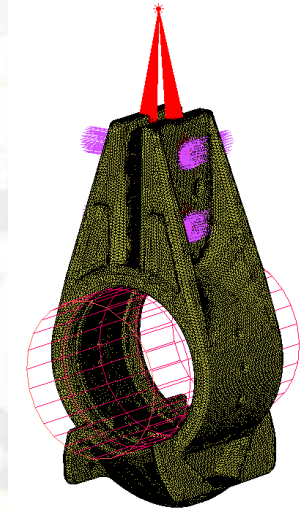
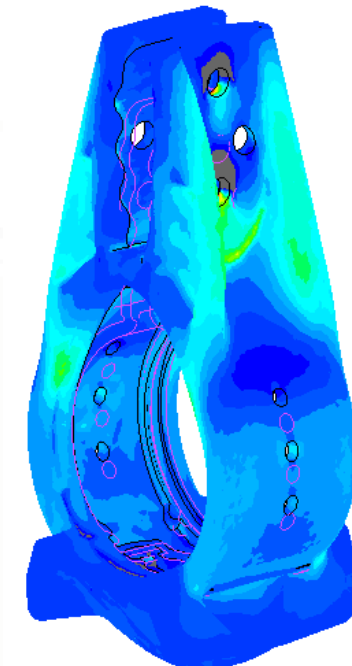
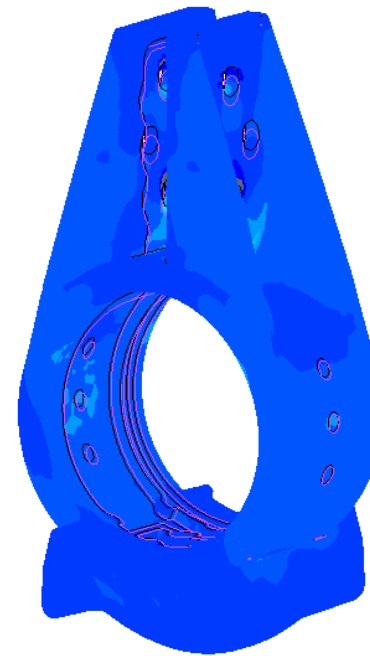
Part Stiffness - Anisotropic VS Isotropic



Deformation under same applied load  
Deformation factor – 25:1

Isotropic

Anisotropic

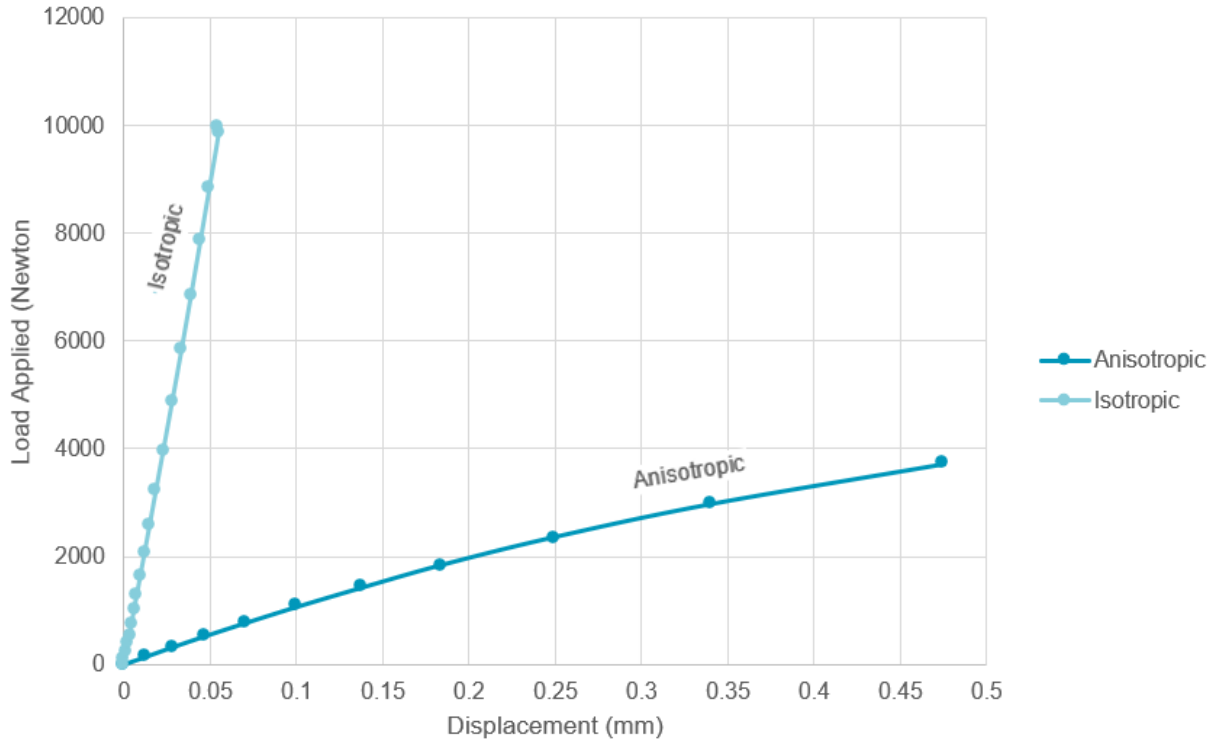


\*\*The pink contour would be considered as the initial geometry (undeformed)

# Part Stiffness Comparison – Isotropic vs. Anisotropic

## How using fiber orientation may influence the results

Part Stiffness - Anisotropic VS Isotropic

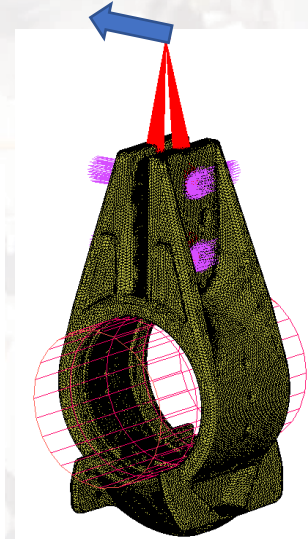
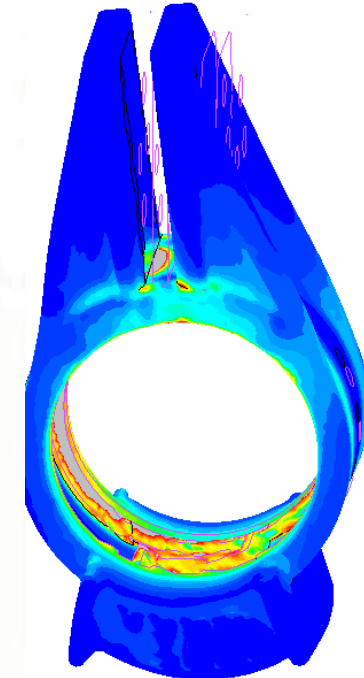


Deformation under same applied load  
Deformation factor – 25:1

Isotropic



Anisotropic

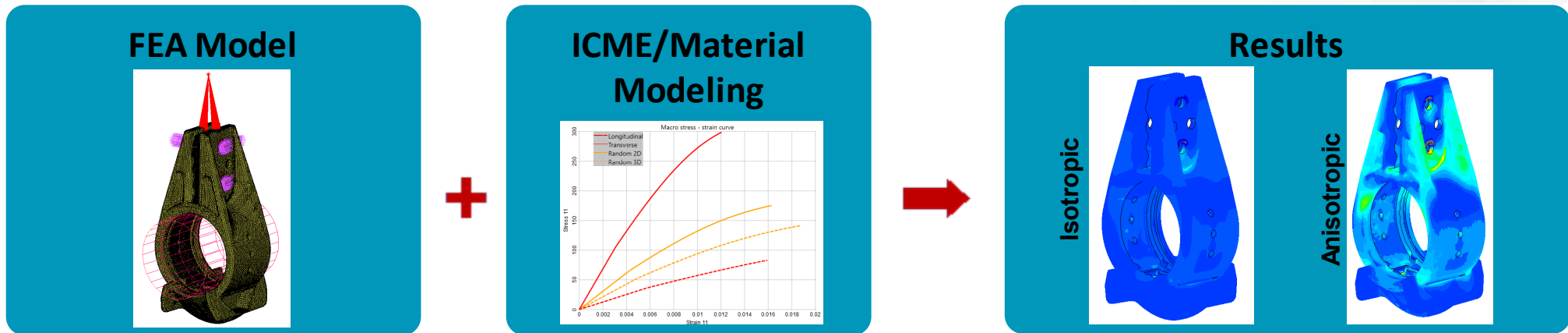


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# Enriched FEA Simulation

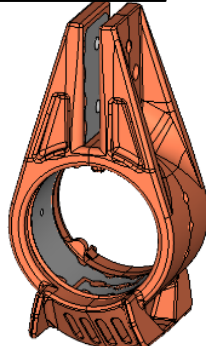
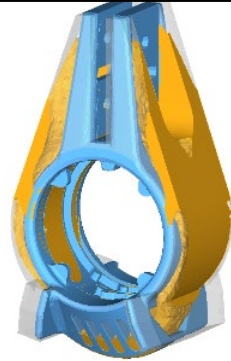
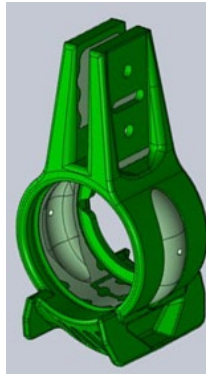
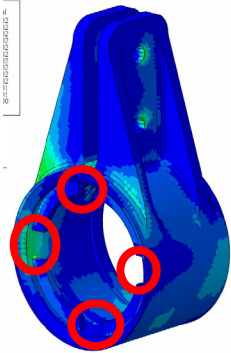
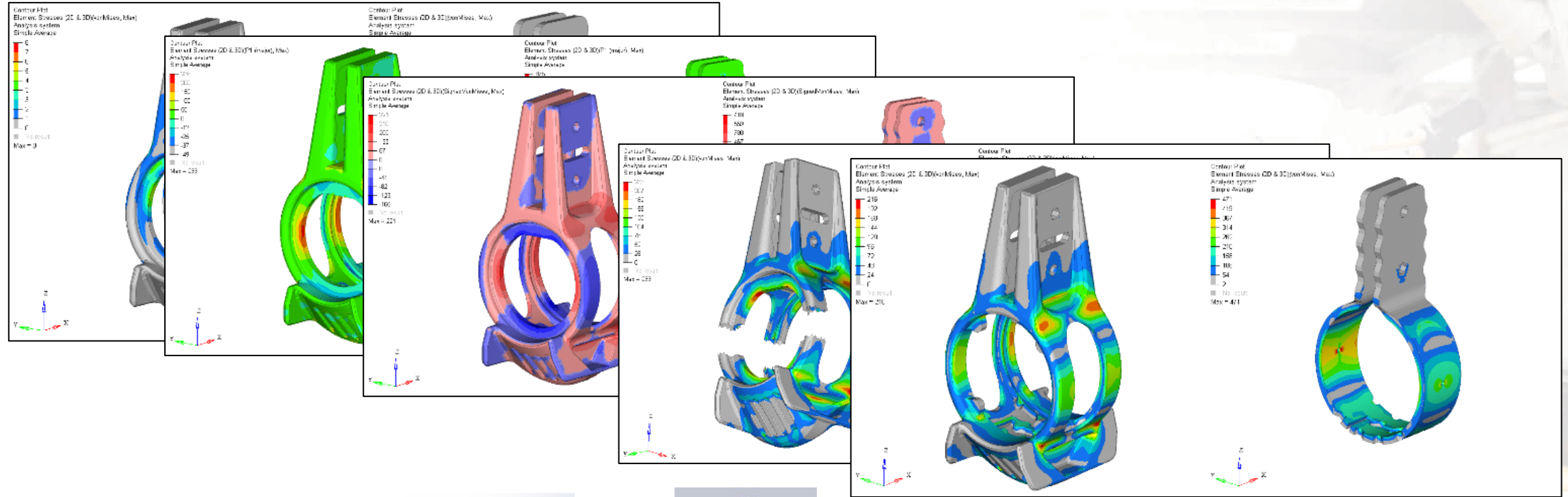
## ICME material modeling + FEA simulation



- This workflow shows the benefits of Digimat tools and how they can be coupled to other FEA codes to quickly evaluate and simulate different test specimen and extract local loading history to evaluate failure modes and predict strength
  - **ICME/Material Modeling** -> Provides with easy material model calibration and help engineers to get quick general anisotropic material behavior evaluations
  - **FEA Simulation** > Enable to evaluate different loading condition requirements while accounting for all materials microstructures involved
  - **Injection Molding Simulation** -> Access to fiber orientation estimation for quick flow evaluation and Fiber OT data.

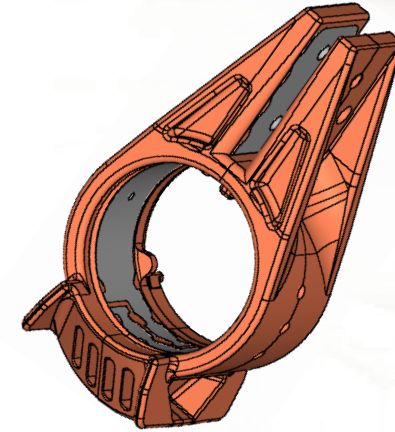
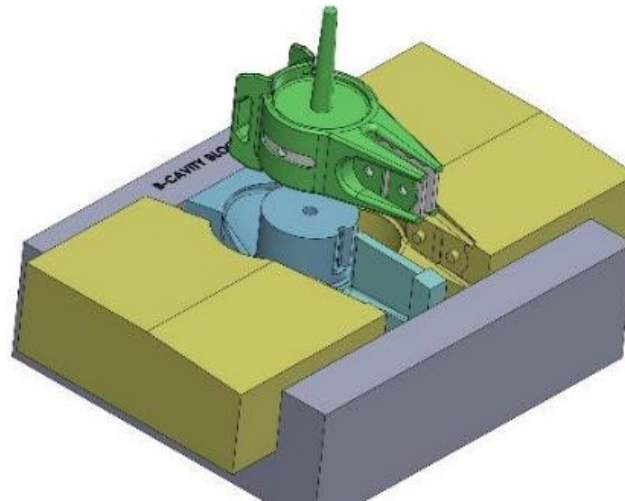
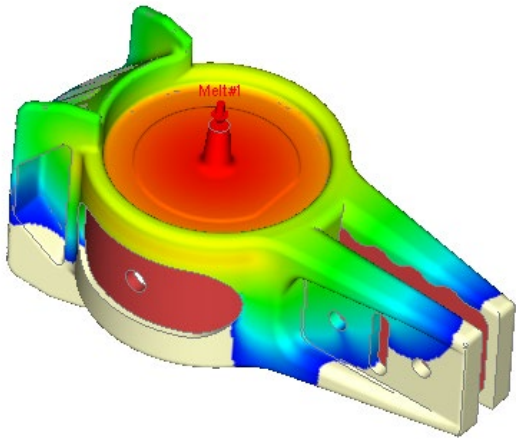
# Software Aided Design & Analysis Iterations

## Early concept to build-able part



# Tooling and Process Development

- Agreement on final design
- Analysis tools predict successful performance
- TxV initiates a tooling design
- Molding process simulations
- Part design modifications based on process and tooling constraints made as needed



# Prototype Parts, Testing, and Validation

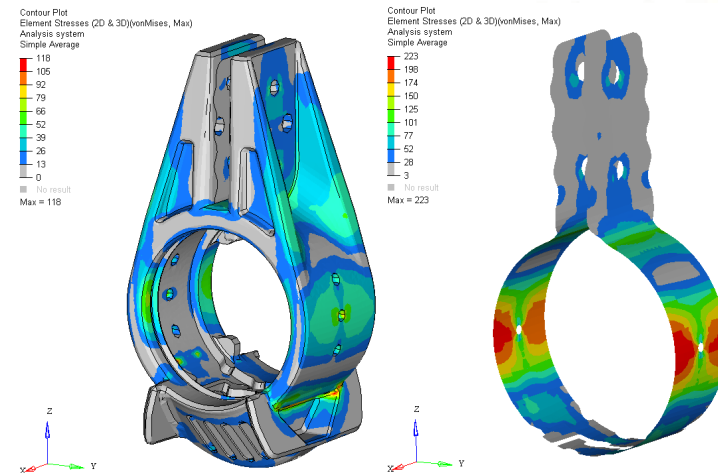
- TxV produced prototype parts
- Parts tested to validate design assumptions, analytical models and processing conditions



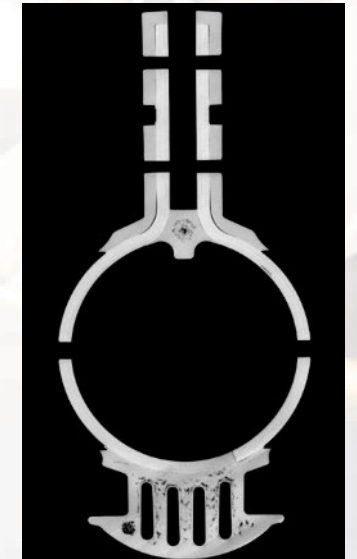
Prototype parts



Preliminary testing



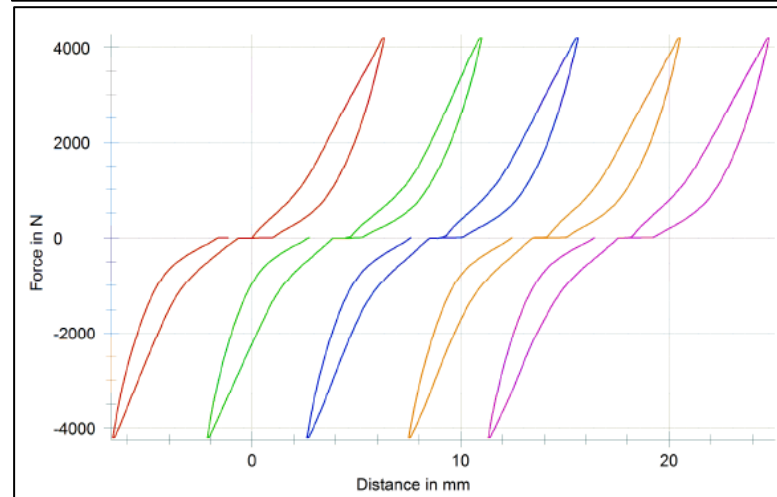
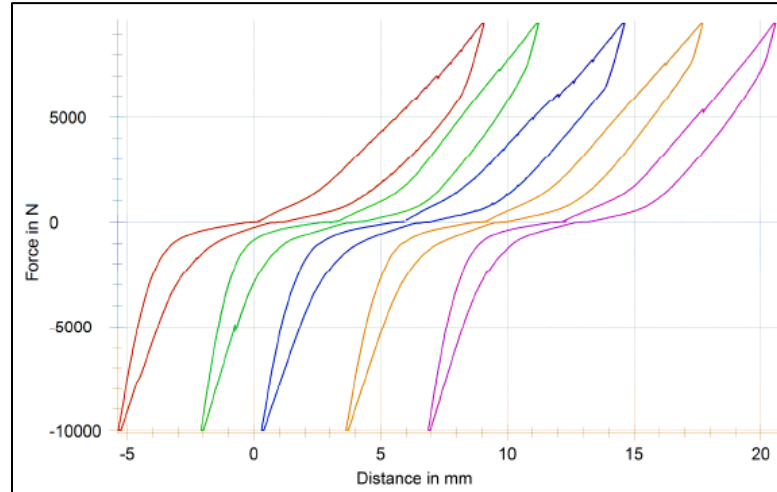
Validated models



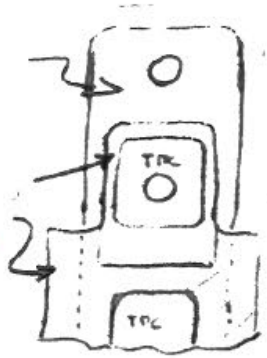
CT scan

# Qualification Testing and Reporting

- Parts were submitted for qualification testing in two load directions (Z and Y)
- Ultimate loads 1.50 x operational
- Tested in +/- Z, cycle full reversal from +10000 N to -10000 N
- Tested in +/- Y, cycle full reversal from +4,200 N to -4,200 N
- Maximum loads at an additional safety factor of 6 – 10%
- No cracks or visible damage is permitted
- Subsequently pulled to failure



# Collaborative Design



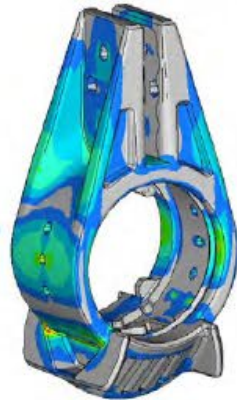
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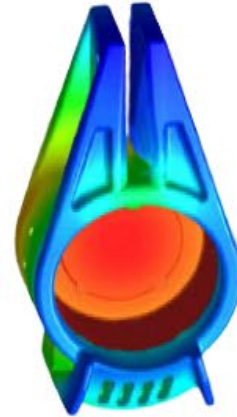
## DIGITAL MODELING

Initial creation of a digital twin is used to represent the composite part design and provide confirmation that requirements have been understood.



## OPTIMIZATION

Analytical tools are used to optimize the part design to meet the application demands and see how design choices impact results.



## PROCESS SIMULATION

Advanced simulation tools are used to see how design choices impact manufacturability.



## PROTOTYPING

First parts are produced to verify manufacturability and validate part performance.



## COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION

APQP framework, production quality tooling, and automated equipment allows for a seamless transition to commercial production.



# Thank You

Questions?

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