Successes & Challenges during the Development of a Dynamically Controlled Robotic Induction Welding System

Technology maturity cycle from Lab to Production

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"Future Org" Aerospace



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Presenters

- Evan Young Head of Engineering for "Future Org"
- John Monsees Chief R&D Technologist for "Future Org"



About "Future Org" Aerospace

"Future Org"is a premier manufacturer of cutting-edge composite components and assemblies at all levels of complexity, with products installed on the industry's most advanced commercial and military aircraft.

As a US-based company with a global footprint of nearly 1.6M square feet of state-of-the-art facilities, "Future Org"has the capabilities and resources to solve the market's toughest challenges with Quality Assured.

Our Locations

RED OAK, TX



- 123-acre site
- 38 miles SE of DFW Int'l Airport
- 772,000 ft² of manufacturing space
- 350 employees
- Large Complex Structural Assembly
- AS9100D and NADCAP Certified

MILLEDGEVILLE, GA



- 165-acre site
- 93 miles SE of Atlanta, GA
- 650,000 ft² of manufacturing space
- 270 employees
- Premier Composite Manufacturing
- AS9100D and NADCAP Certified

RAYONG, THAILAND

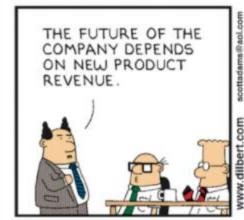


- 44-acre site
- 62 miles from Suvarnabhumi Int'l Airport
- 150,000 ft² of manufacturing space
- 165 employees
- Low-cost Complex Composite Components
- AS9100D and NADCAP Certified

Technology Development

From Lab to Production

Engineers vs. Accountants-



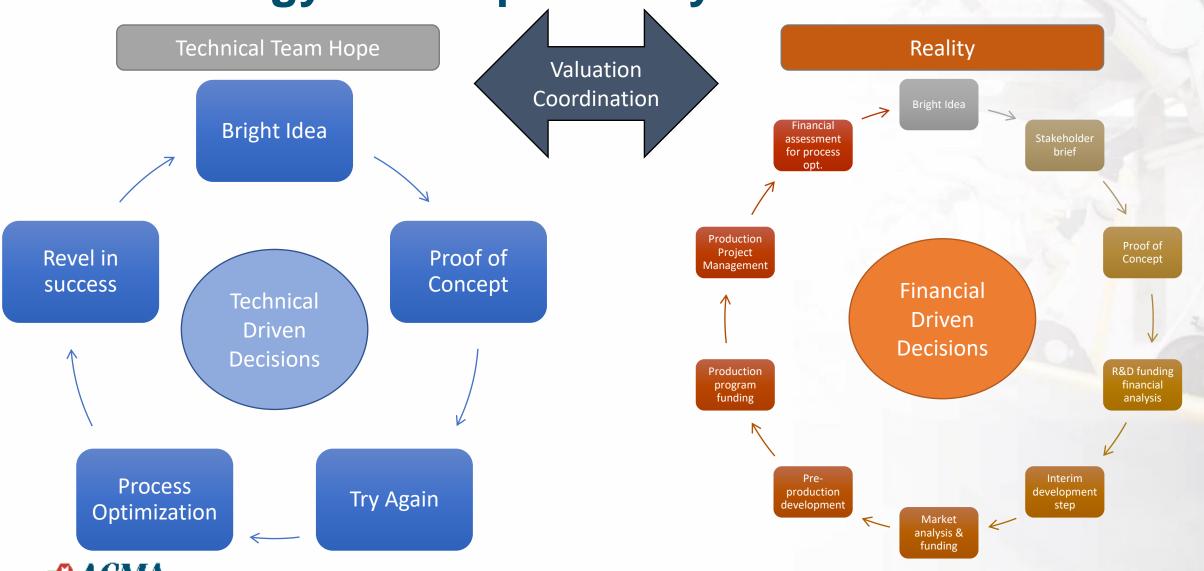








Technology Development Cycle



The challenge – Induction Welding of Thermoplastics to meet customer needs

- Technical Challenges
 - Is the new innovative idea technically viable?
 - How do we evaluate the technology capability
 - Can we merge dynamic induction welding and robotic process control while developing sufficient joint strength on a repeatable and inspectable basis
 - Can we reduce development time through predictive analysis supported by physical tests

- Organizational Leadership Challenges
 - Is there a market for this technology
 - What is the Return on Investment of pursuing this technology
 - What is the opportunity cost of pursuing this technology versus other potential developmental programs
 - What off-ramps exist at what investment levels



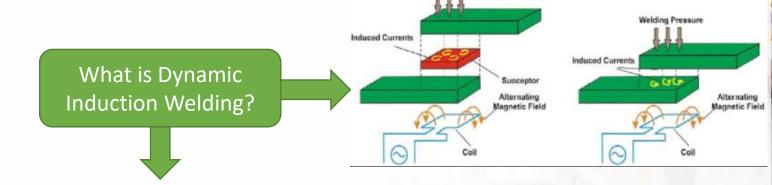
Technology Development Case Study

Successes and Challenges



The Idea – Develop unique new technology that has industry demand and applications

- Thermoplastic composite unidirectional tape for induction welding
 - Reduce eddy current generation by using UD tape & localized electrical isolation
 - Leap forward industrialization of fusion welding

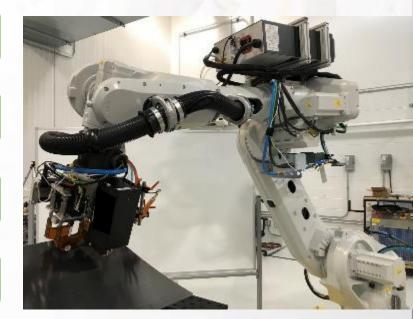


Computational Electromagnetics

Applied Thermodynamics

Polymer Chemistry

Robotic Automation & Integration





Road Map Presented Jan 2018

-Resistance and Inductive weld development -Initial joint allowables -Supplier welding head, coil, and robot development

Level 3

-Flying
Demonstrator
Design & Analysis
-Heated leading
edge design &
analysis
-Welding robot
delivery & Center

of Excellence standup -Proof of concept wing box

Level 4 Level 5

-Flying
demonstration
part fabrication &
delivery
-Material
properties,
process
specifications, &
material
equivalency
-NDI and Quality

program complete

Level 6

-Full scale article

static, fatigue,
BVID, impact, and
lightning test
programs
complete
-Material
certification path
defined and
reviewed by
authorities

Level 7

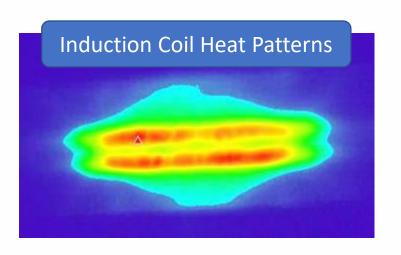
-Certification requirement compliant assemblies fabricated and ready for flight tests

CY	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021
	Leve	el 3													
	Le	vel 4													
				Le	evel 5										
									Level	6					
	2 4	MA									Level	7			

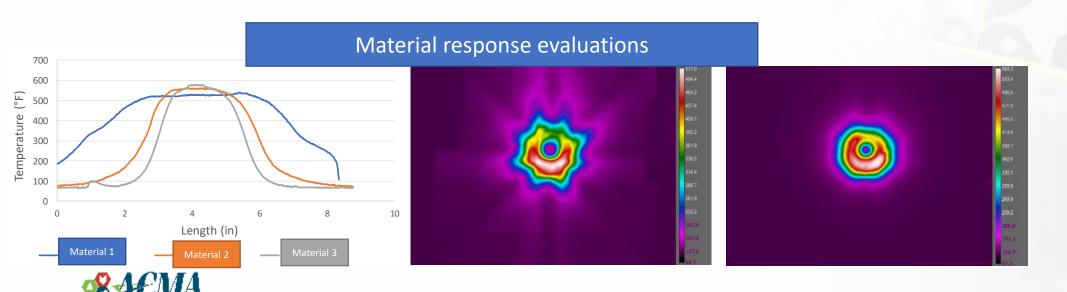
TRL	Plan	Actual
3	Dec 2018	Dec 2018
4	June 2019	Oct 2019
5	Oct 2020	Feb 2021
6	June 2021	TBD
7	Dec 2021	TBD

Present logical and measurable technology maturation = funding

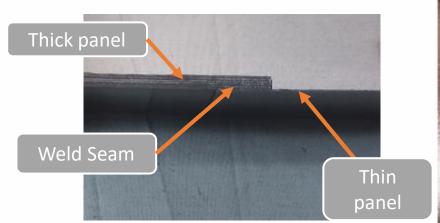
Fusion Welding technical challenges







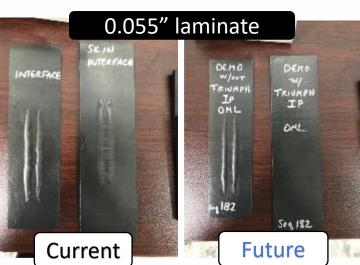
Technology Achievements

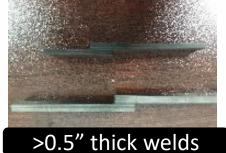


Technology Validation Q3 2018



Assembly proof of concept Q2 2019









Robotic welding head Q1 2019



TRL 5 Achievement Q1 2021

Next Steps for industrial revolution for composite structure

Is there a path to production?



Path to Production

- "Future Org" is a tier 1 structures manufacturer
- Research to date shows promise of the technology
 - Capability to weld dis-similar structure
 - Capability to weld a closed box assembly
 - Capability to demonstrate strong & repeatable joints
 - Capability to reduce manufacturing time and increase flexibility
- OEM applications and requirements are needed



Thank You

• Q&A

