

Joint press release

marketing communication

Airborne and TenCate Advanced Composites sign Long Term Supply Agreement for satellite solar array systems

TenCate Advanced Composites, a leading supplier of composite materials for high performance aerospace and industrial applications, and Airborne announce the signing of a long-term supply agreement for advanced thermoset composite materials.

Airborne will use the composite materials supplied by TenCate to create the substrate panels of the Advanced Rigid Array (ARA) Mk4 solar array system for satellites. The ARA Mk4 technology, developed by Airbus Defence and Space Netherlands in close cooperation with Airborne, will be deployed on solar arrays for European Space Agency (ESA) missions.

The agreement covers the supply of unidirectional thermoset prepreg tape and fabric materials from TenCate's European Centre of Excellence for thermoset systems in Langley Mill (Nottingham), UK.

'This agreement is an important step forward for further cooperation with Airborne and emphasizes the reach of our advanced thermoset composites. We are proud to extend our mutual long-term relationship to the next level,' says Frank Meurs, chief operations officer of TenCate Advanced Composites.

"To join forces with TenCate Advanced Composites in the Space market is a natural fit for Airborne," says Arno van Mourik, CEO of Airborne. "As Airborne is on a growth path in the field of sandwich panel for satellite structures, TenCate's excellence in advanced thermoset composite materials adds an important new skill set. Teaming up with TenCate enable us to expand our leading position regarding solar-array substrate panel manufacturing for our international space customers. We are looking forward to the positive impact of TenCate's deep industry experience and materials execution."

Note to editors

TenCate Advanced Composites and Airborne will both be exhibiting at the Paris Air Show (19-25 June 2017).

**TenCate Advanced Composites and Airborne
Langley Mill, UK and The Hague, the Netherlands, Tuesday 9 May 2017**

For further information:

Digital pictures are available upon request.

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TenCate Advanced Composites is a leader in the development and production of advanced thermoset and thermoplastic composite materials. With production facilities & operations in Europe, North America and Asia, TenCate supplies a portfolio of thermoset and thermoplastic prepregs in fabric, unidirectional tape, bulk moulded compounds and reinforced thermoplastic laminate (RTL) formats across aerospace and industrial markets. Key brands include TenCate AmberTool® tooling prepregs and TenCate Cetex® thermoplastic composites.

Airborne International

Airborne has an extensive legacy in providing advanced composite solutions for industrial market leaders in a variety of markets. As a preferred supplier we design, develop, qualify, manufacture and perform maintenance on composite products for the most demanding applications. Based on this legacy Airborne develops and builds bespoke machines, with the capability to automate manufacturing of composites structures at competitive price levels for a number of industries worldwide. Airborne's ambition is to build the leading physical and digital platform in composite automated manufacturing technologies for small to mid-size composite components. Airborne International currently employs more than 100 highly skilled people and given its growth ambitions is currently strengthening the senior management levels. Customers of Airborne include directly and indirectly companies such as Airbus, GD, GE and Thales.