

## Press release

marketing communication

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### **TenCate Advanced Composites congratulate Delft University of Technology on winning inaugural Hyperloop Pod competition**

**TenCate Advanced Composites, a leading global composite materials company, has supported Delft University of Technology with carbon fibre composite materials for the Delft Hyperloop pod, who achieved first place in the inaugural SpaceX Hyperloop Competition Weekend, January 27-29, 2017, in Hawthorne, CA, United States.**

Delft Hyperloop's team, who won the overall award in addition to the award for best construction and design, were one of only three teams who passed the criteria to progress to a run in the SpaceX Hyperloop test track. Their half-scale pod, which measures 4.5m long and 0.85m in diameter, was the first pod shell to be designed using carbon fibre composites, winning the "Pod Innovation Award" during the competition's January 2016 design weekend. From this milestone event, 29 teams from across the globe were selected to progress and manufacture a scaled version of their pod design, culminating in last weekend's competition.

TenCate provided Delft's team with the supply of epoxy-based carbon fibre composite materials for the manufacture of the pod's monocoque, resulting in a strong yet lightweight pod weighing only 149 kg. The competition follows 18 months of design, build and development by the student team at TU Delft, which was judged on speed, efficiency, safety and scalability of design.

#### **Where materials meet innovation**

The Hyperloop concept was coined in 2013, described the concept as the "fifth mode of transportation". Combining the convenience of rail with the speed of air travel, the world's first Hyperloop pod competition has an ethos of sharing knowledge and promoting partnership and innovation.

"We're excited to be part of TU Delft's journey during this historic Hyperloop pod competition" states Steven Mead, Chief Commercial Officer of TenCate Advanced Composites, "This is a prime example of where the inherent lightweight and strong properties of advanced composite materials meet the demand for the new frontiers of mass transportation".

**Note to editors**

The materials from TenCate have been supplied from their recently opened European Centre of Excellence for thermoset systems in Langley Mill, UK. The pod will be displayed by TenCate Advanced Composites at the composites industry key event, JEC World in Paris, 14 – 16 March, stand 5A/U40.

**TenCate Advanced Composites  
Langley Mill, United Kingdom, Wednesday 1 February 2017**

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**For further information:**

Digital pictures are available upon request.

**TenCate Advanced Composites Europe**

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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 supply a portfolio of prepregs in fabric, unidirectional tape, bulk moulded compounds and reinforced thermoplastic laminate (RTL) formats across aerospace and industrial markets.

**About Hyperloop**

The Hyperloop was unveiled by Elon Musk in 2013 as a new high-speed ground transport and transit system, with capsules (pods) travelling in a system of air pressure tubes / airless vacuum. The Hyperloop can operate at a top speed of 1200 km/h. The official SpaceX Hyperloop pod competition's test tube, designed to help accelerate development of a functional Hyperloop prototype, is 1.25 km long and 1.8m diameter.

**About Delft Hyperloop**

The Delft Hyperloop Team consists of 30 students from all the faculties of the Delft University of Technology. The team was founded in June 2015 with the goal to participate in the SpaceX Hyperloop Pod Competition. After winning the “Pod Innovation Award” during the design phase of the competition, the Delft Hyperloop Pod was unveiled in June 2016 by the Minister of Economic Affairs Henk Kamp and Prince Constantijn of the Netherlands. The Delft Hyperloop Team won the overall prize of the Hyperloop competition.