



“ When the physical world meets, uniquely, the virtual world for a premium manufacturing, maintenance, and repair approach of the next generation aircraft composite structures ”

GENEX Project – Overview and Composite Repair related Innovations

CRS&EF, Republic Polytechnic, Singapore, 24/9/2024

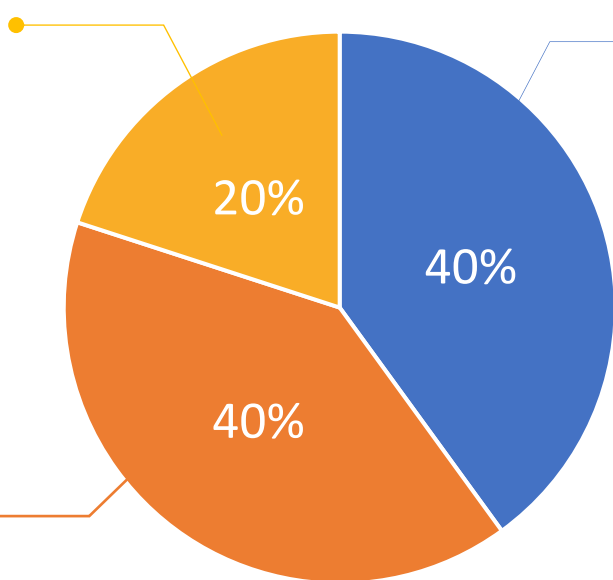
Andrea Calvo Echenique, ITA (Spain)
George Kanterakis, GMI Aero (France)



Aragón Institute of Technology (ITA)

Since 1984

Public non-competitive funding



Private funding

70% R&D private contracts

30% technical support

Public competitive funding

57% European
28% National
15% Regional

20M€

In 2023 we work on:

More than 2.900 tests

More than 200 private R&D projects

More than 120 public R&D projects



A multidisciplinary team working for companies and society



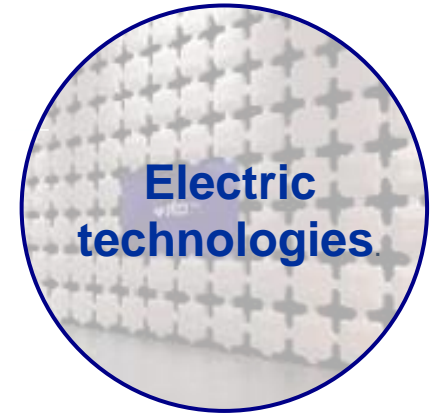
Materials and components



Tecnologías digitales



Mecatronic systems



Electric technologies

We are the technological partner of:






“ When the physical world meets, uniquely, the virtual world for a premium manufacturing, maintenance, and repair approach to the next-generation aircraft composite structures ”

GENEX goals

New end-to-end digital framework for optimized manufacturing and maintenance of next generation aircraft composite structures



To produce **eco-efficient materials** and processes, monitoring systems, and numerical models supporting **advanced manufacturing** of composite aircraft components.



To invent a methodology built on **coupled physics -and data-based- algorithms** to improve the assessment of fatigue damage and residual life estimation of the aircraft structure under variable usage scenarios.



To develop **pioneering digital-based processes** and **tools** to optimize **maintenance** and **repair** operations while assisting the digital transformation of composite repair.



What

A multi-disciplinary digital twin enabling data management across the entire lifecycle of the next-generation aircraft composite structures

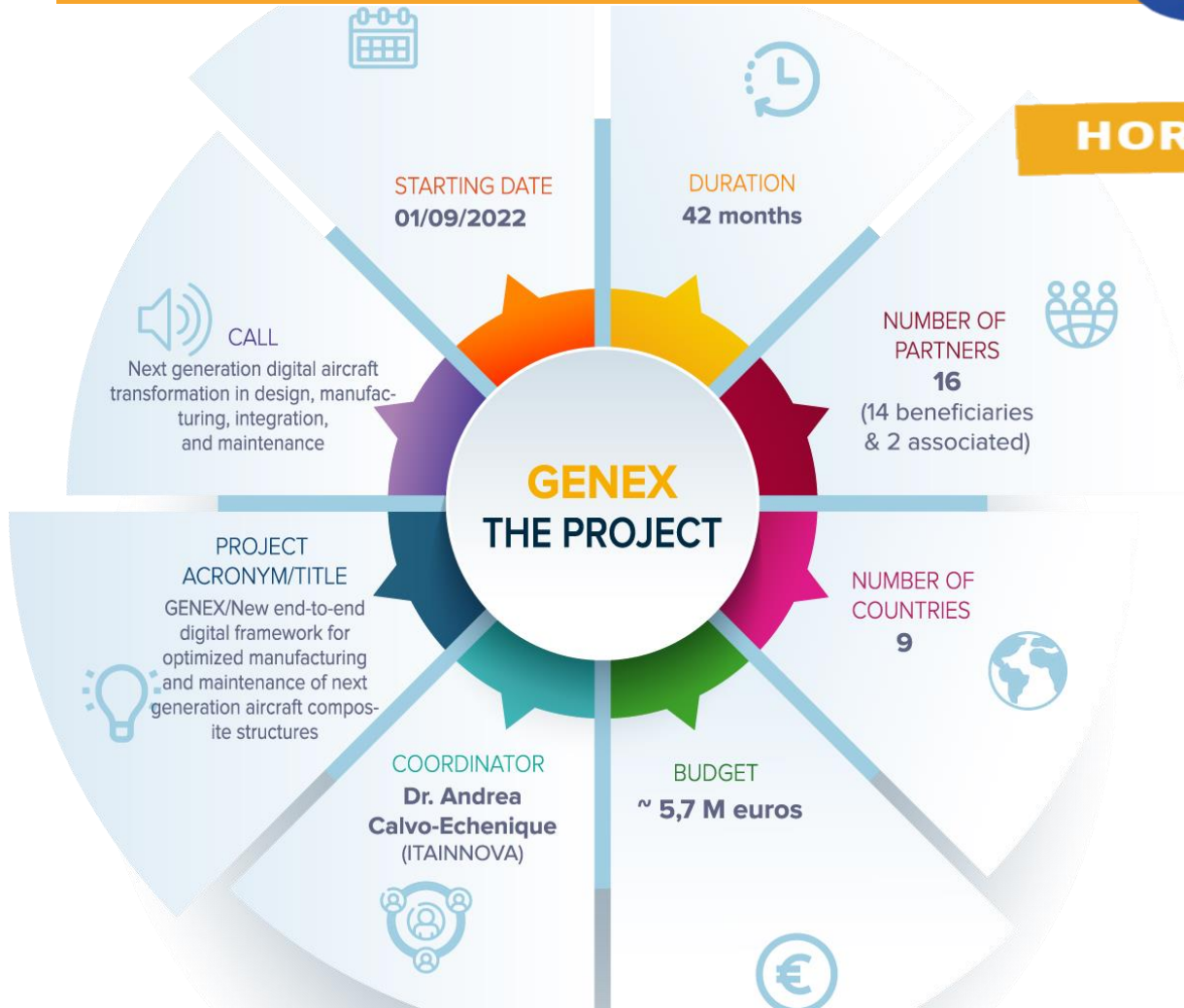


To create a **multi-disciplinary digital twin** of the aircraft component, rendering feasible a continuously updated model of the aircraft lifecycle.

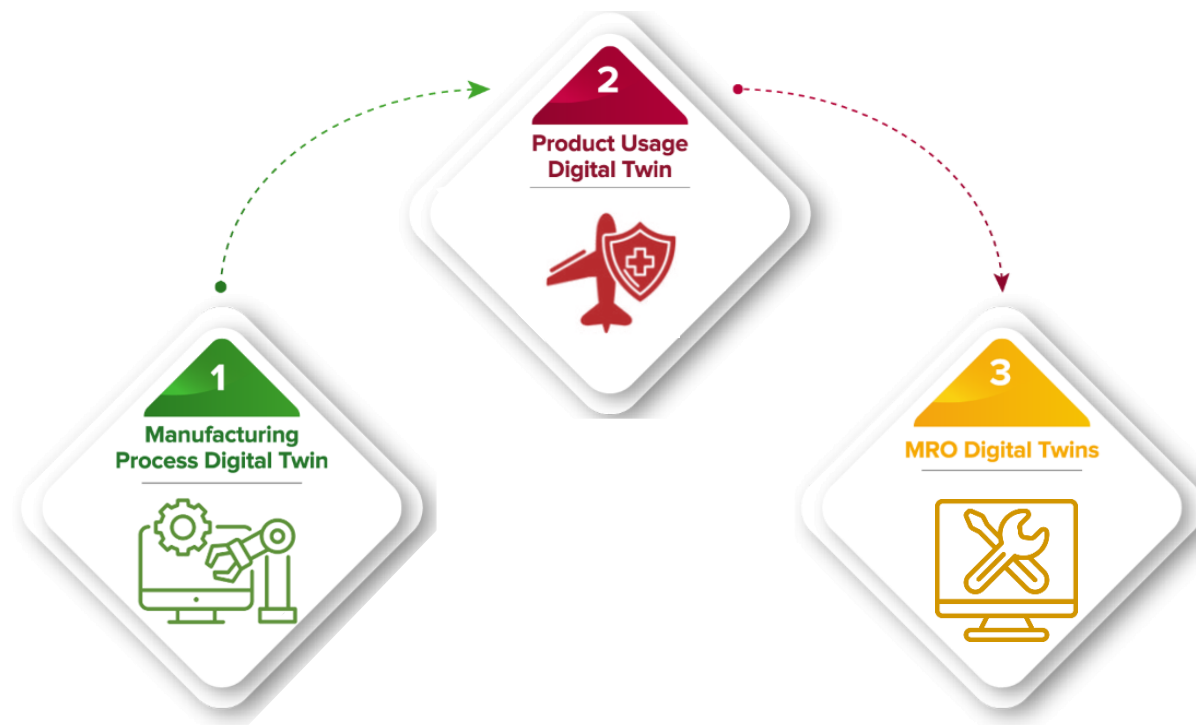
About GENEX



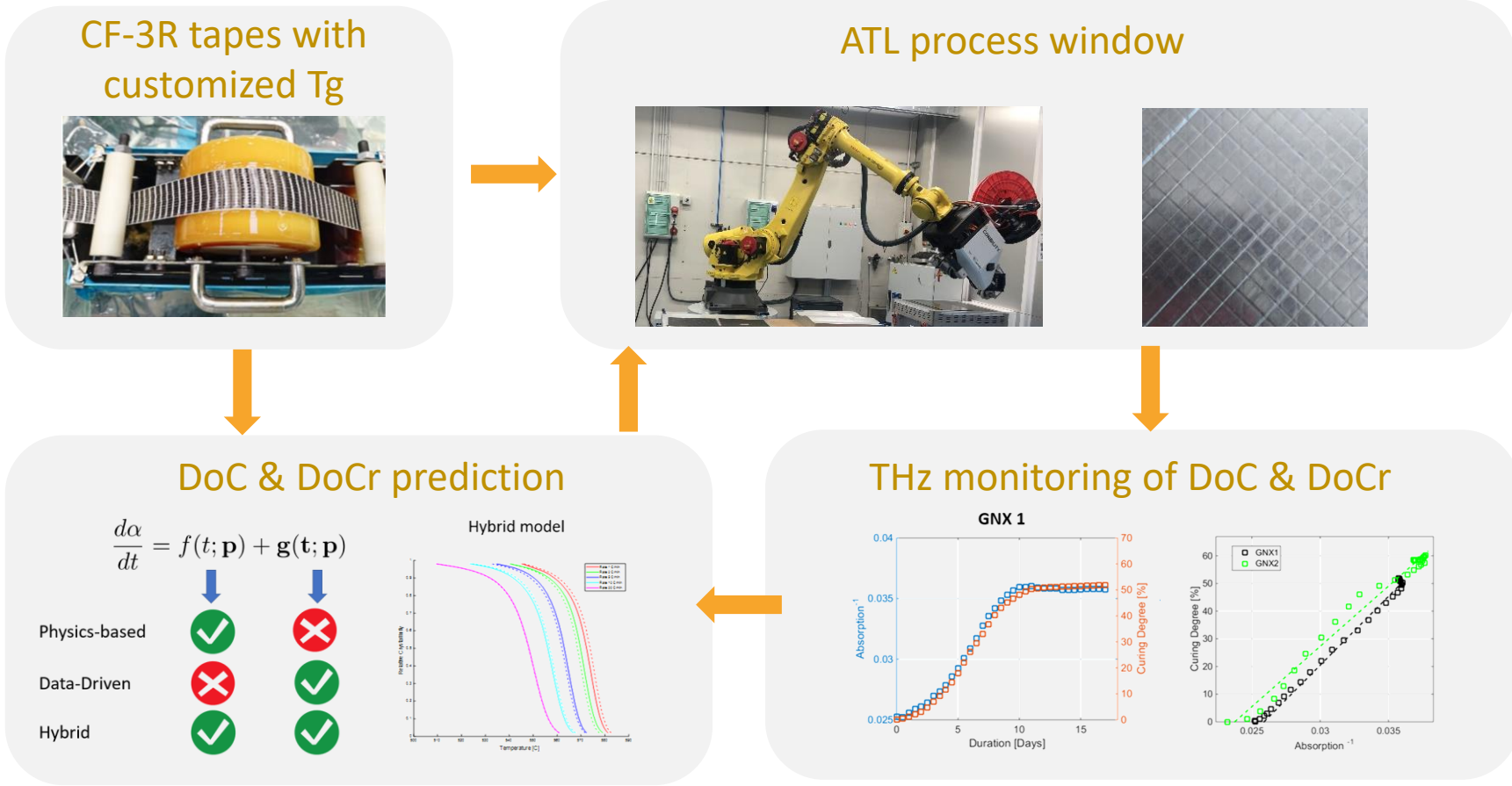
HORIZON EUROPE



GENEX solution



GENEX technologies



GENEX technologies



ita **Validation**

KTH **HPC - UGW Simulation**

AGH **Sensor network optimization**

ML detection algorithms **IRES**

Wireless communication **csem**

Characterization

Fracture & Fatigue ROM model

Remaining useful life prediction

GENEX technologies



Visual assisted scarfing

Deviaton of target



Portable LIBS cleaning system

Laser cleaning



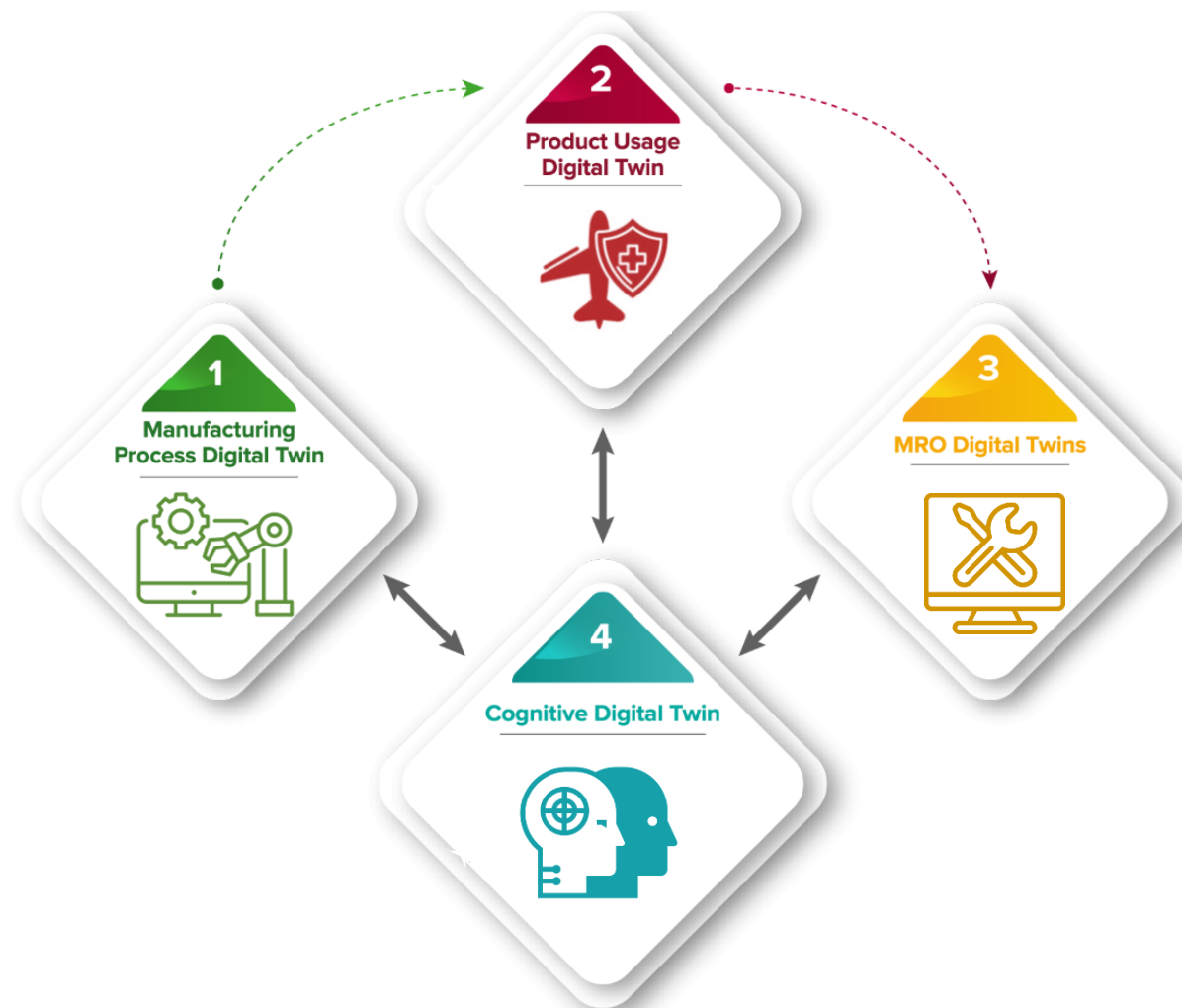
Online control of repair heating process



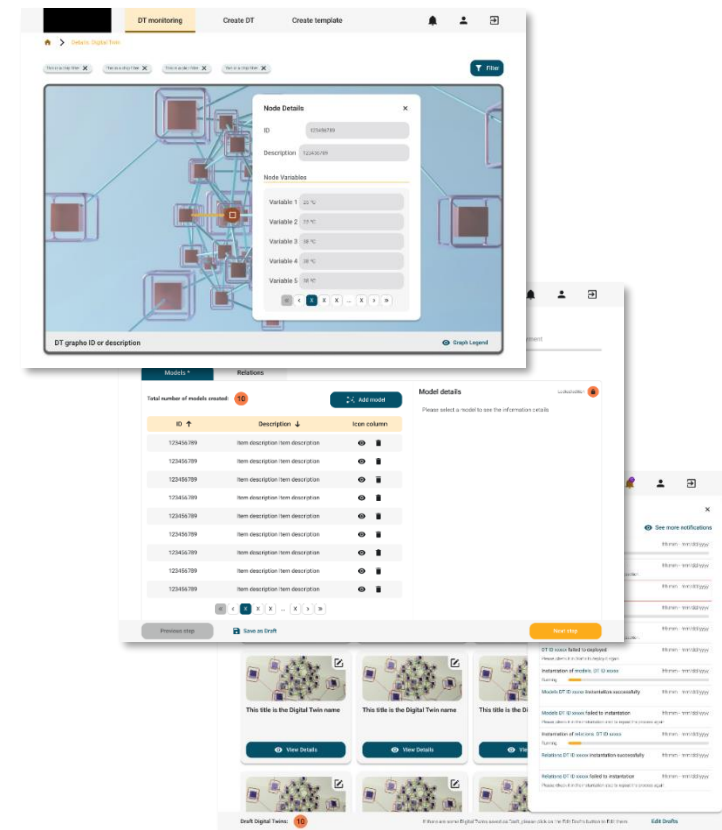
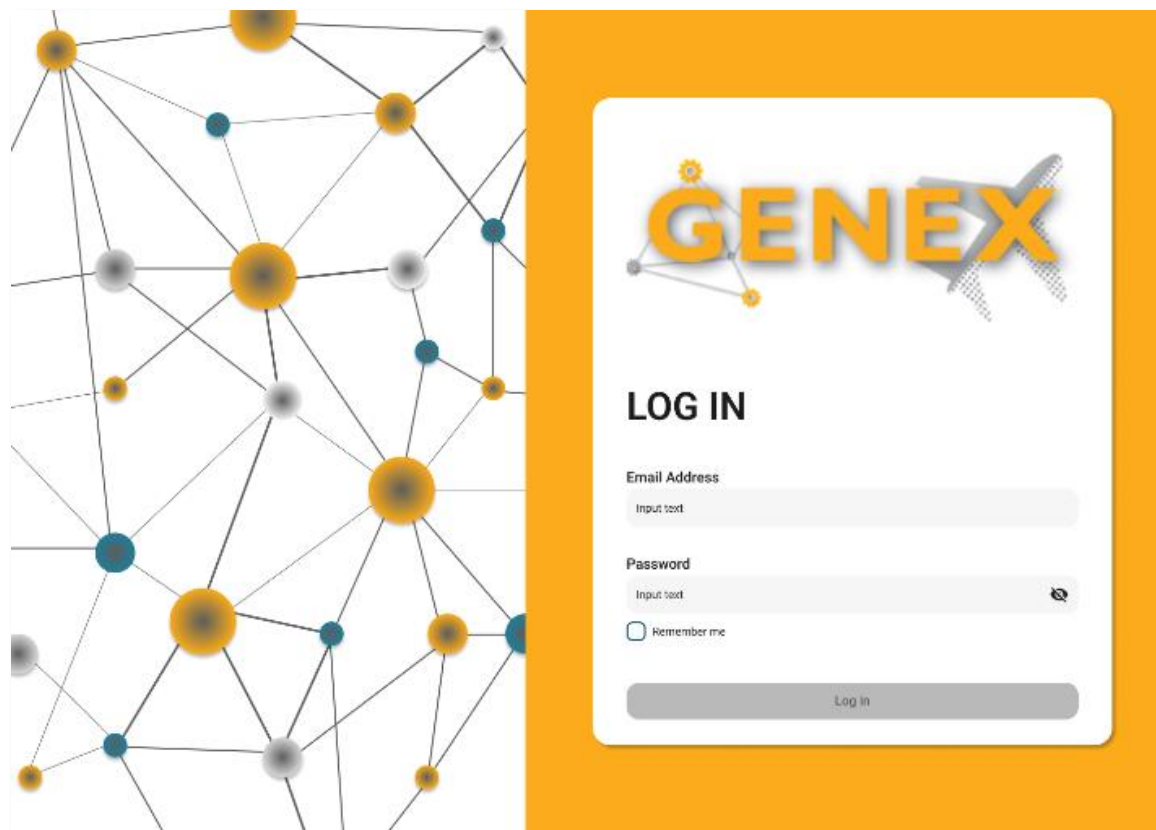
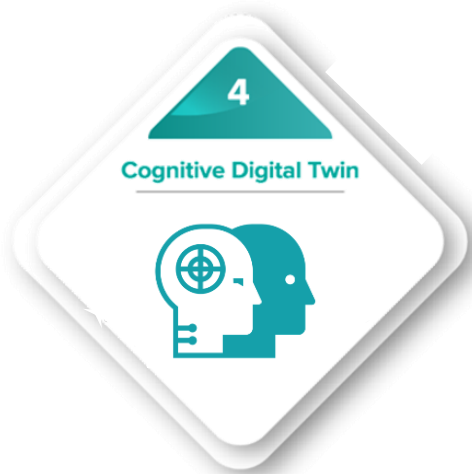
Smart bondlines



GENEX solution



GENEX technologies



GENEX technology transfer to the industry





“ When the physical world meets, uniquely, the virtual world for a premium manufacturing, maintenance, and repair approach of the next generation aircraft composite structures ”

WP4 Digitally-assisted repair processes and tools

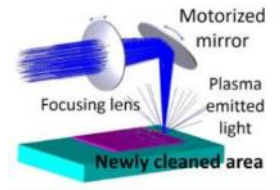
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Main Objectives

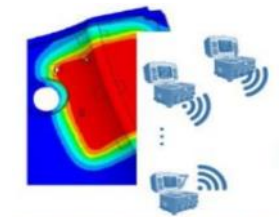
This WP is aimed at developing **new digital-based processes and tools** to support, automating and improving the **efficiency and performance of repairing operations** applied during the bonded scarf repair of composite laminate prototypes, specifically to develop...



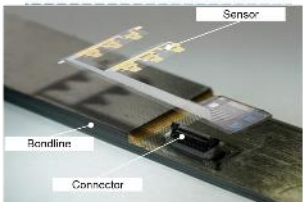
... an advanced and customizable **visual assistance system** to support manual scarf repair operations in order to indicate the operator the deviation between the actual and the nominal scarf geometry.



... a novel **laser-assisted coupled with laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy module** for advanced cleaning and improved control of surface preparation enabling an optimum bonding of the composite patch.

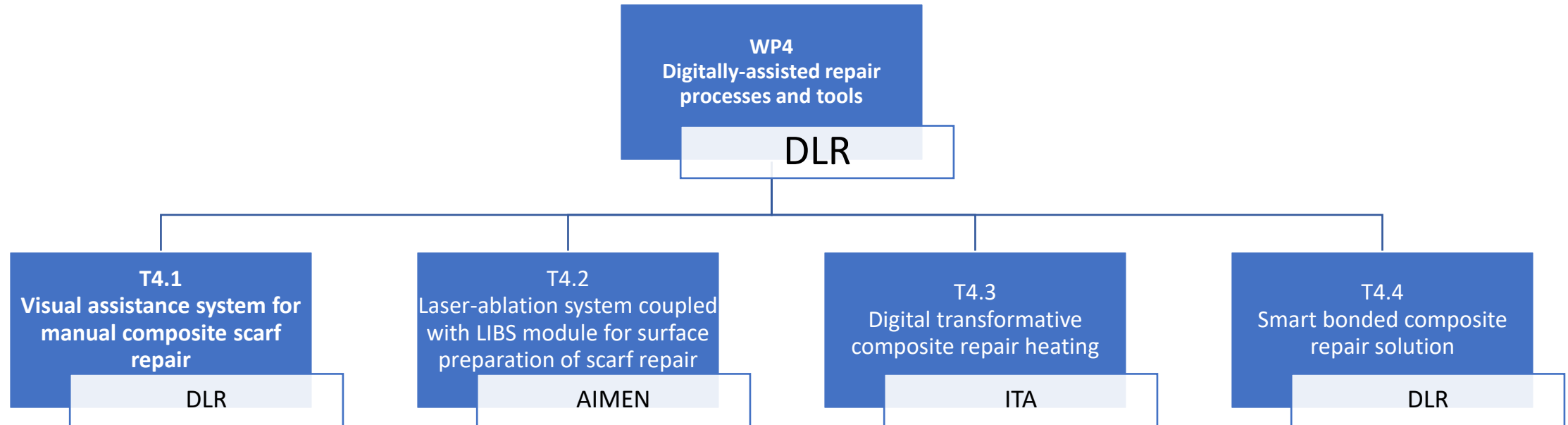


... innovative **digital-based methodologies** for improved design of the composite repair heating blanket and enabling adaptative control of the repair heating process.



... a **smart composite repair patch** for detecting and stopping cracks to ensure the integrity and quality of the repair patch during the lifetime of the aircraft structure.

Structure & Participants



KPIs

- **30% reduction of repairing time** due to process digitalization and improved performance of composite repair
- **Up to 40% increase of the fatigue resistance** of adhesively bonded joints by combining advanced AR tools and laser ablation surface systems, enhanced heating repair and smart control of the repair joint.

T4.1 Visual assistance system for manual composite scarf repair

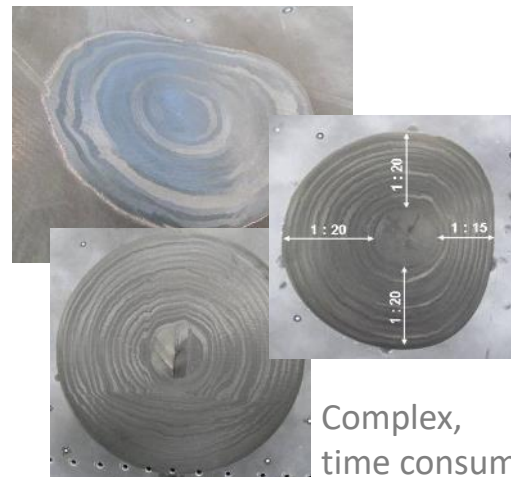
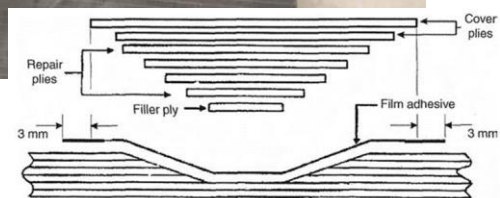
DLR

T 4.1 – Motivation

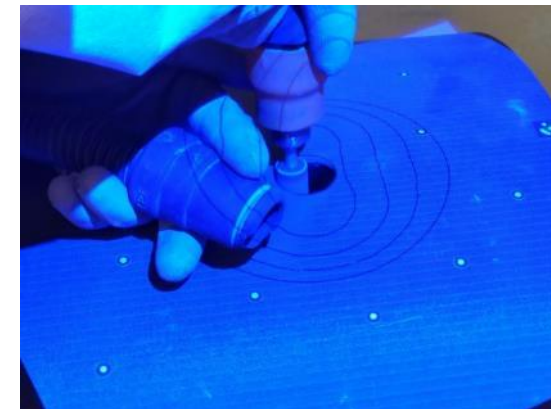
Visual assisted scarfing system (T4.1)



Manual scarfing



Complex, time consuming



Assistance System for the laborer

- complex scarfs
- curved geometries
- Large repairs
- Support for additional processes

State of the art



Robotic Automation

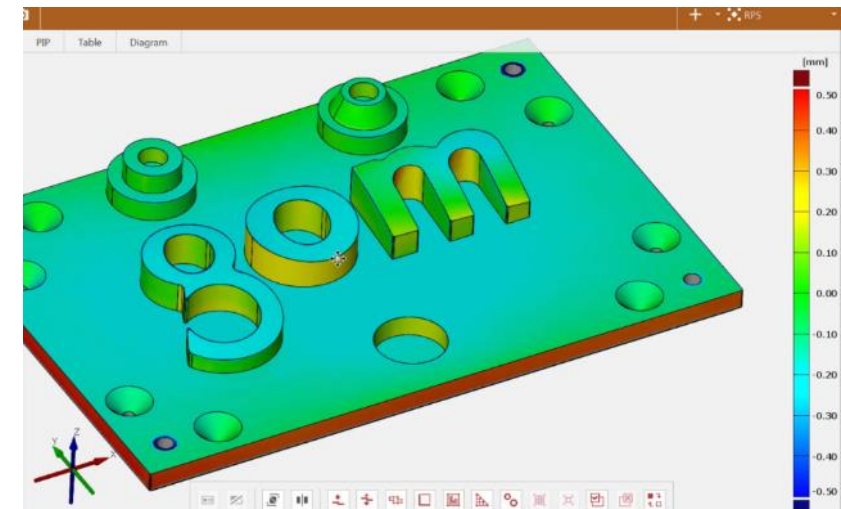
- no business case
- high invest and labor costs

Genex

T4.1 –Assessment of hardware

Zeiss ATOS 5

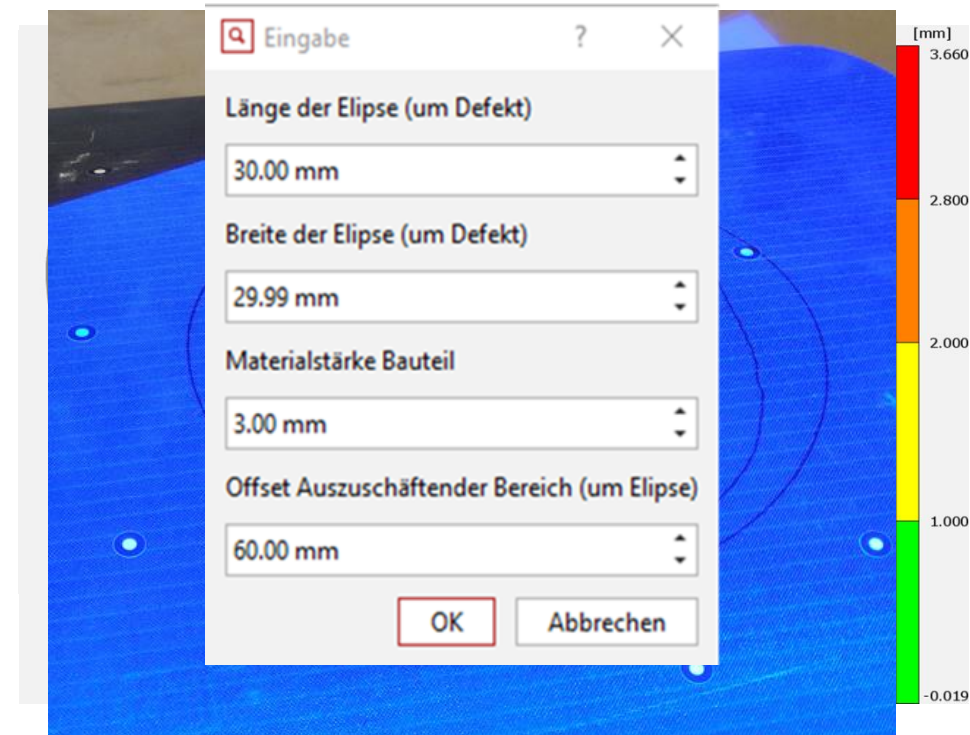
- Scanning and projection in one system
- Dust proof housing for commercial use
- Mobile system for in field repair operation
- Flexible and adaptive software interface
- Suitable field of view for repair purposes



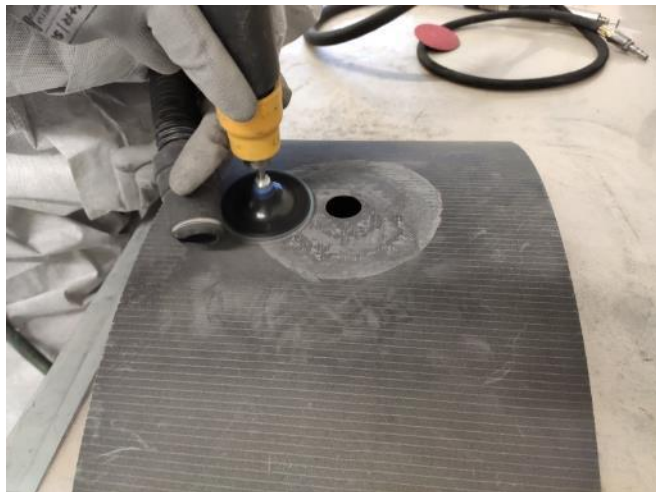
T4.1 – User Interface development

User Interface development Test

- ① Surface scan – coded with reference points
- ② Input of scarf details
- ③ Calculation of nominal geometry
- ④ Calculation deviation and contour lines
- ⑤ Project result on surface

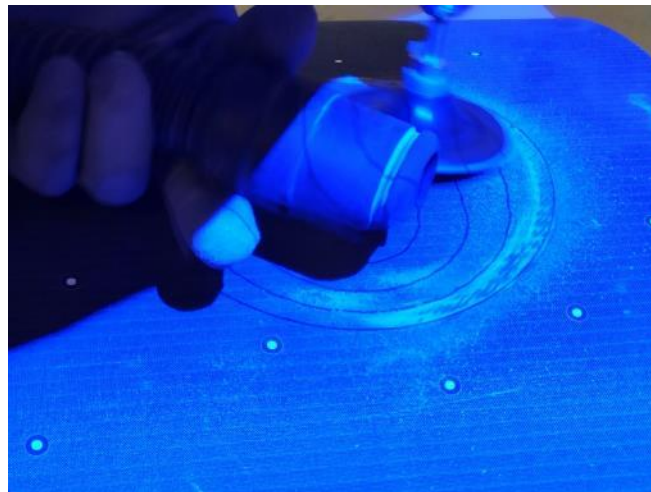


T4.1 - Pilot Test 1

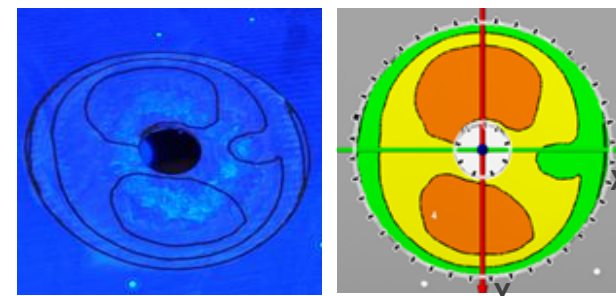


Baseline Process

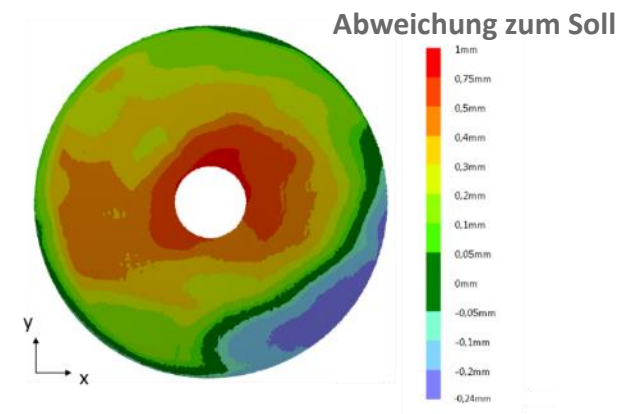
VS.



With digital Assistance

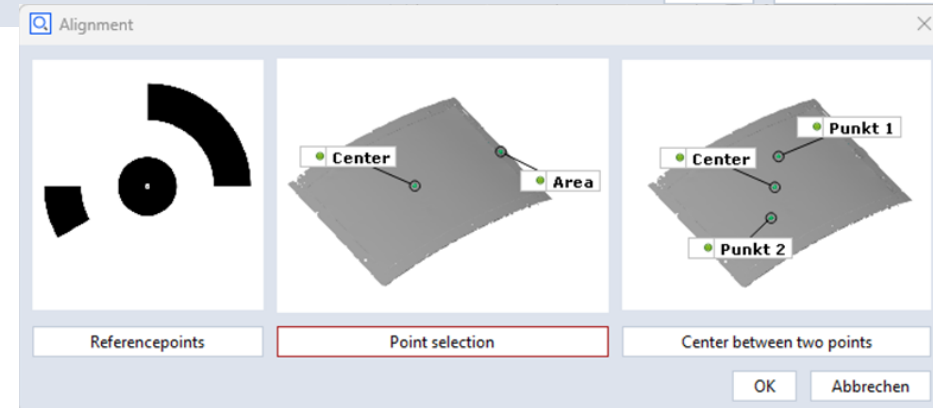
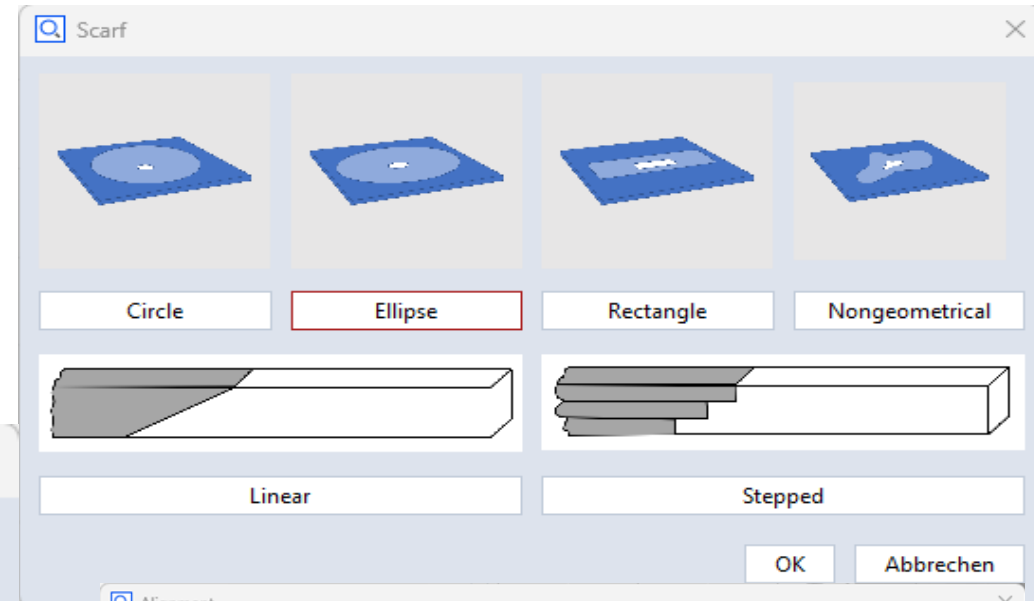
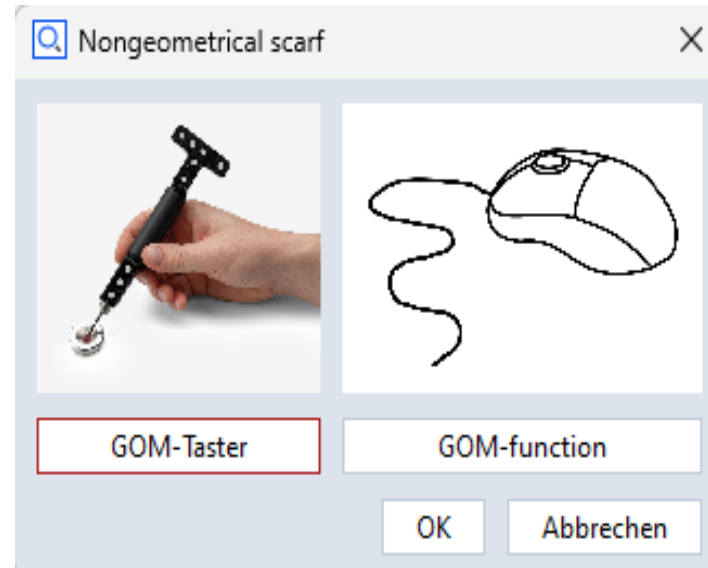


In-situ deviation analysis

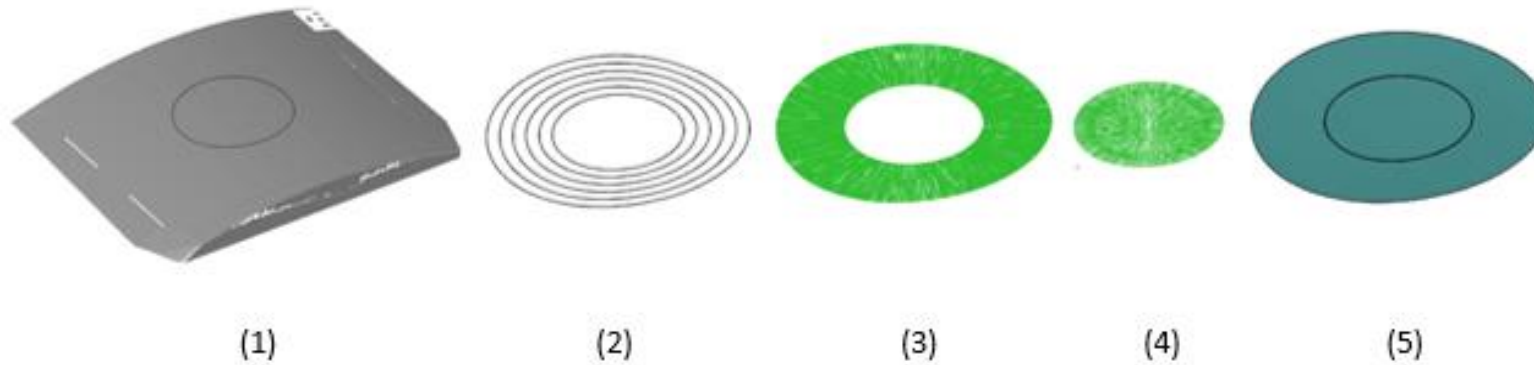


T4.1 –M24 – Software User Interface

- Defining a workflow for different repair types
 - circular; elliptical, rectangle and non geometrical
 - either linear or stepped
- Developing the user Interface
- Bug fixing



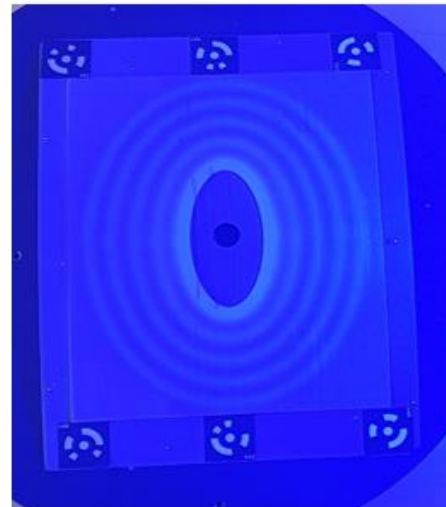
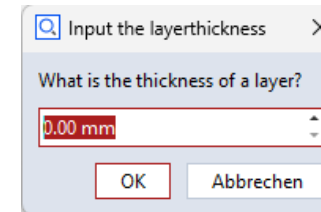
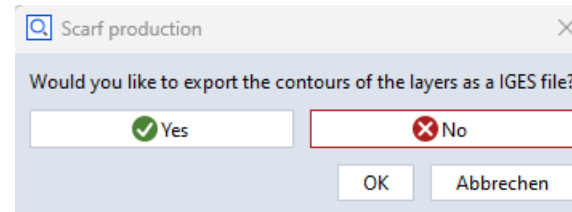
T4.1 –M24 - Improving the automatic scarf generation



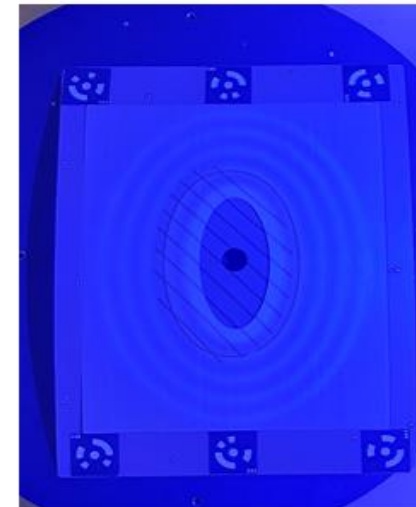
1. Scanned surface
2. Projected surface curves matched to scarf ratio
3. Point cloud of scarf contour
4. Point cloud of repair ground
5. Exportable CAD scarf contour

T4.1 – M24 –Patch placement guidance

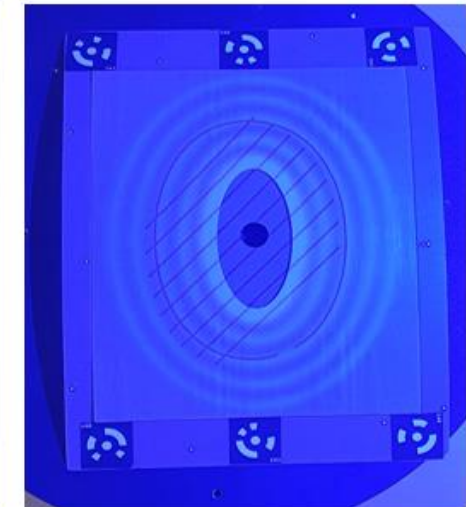
- Implementing a supported patch placement feature
 - Automatic generation of ply cutting files
 - Projection of Ply contour and orientation



(1)



(2)

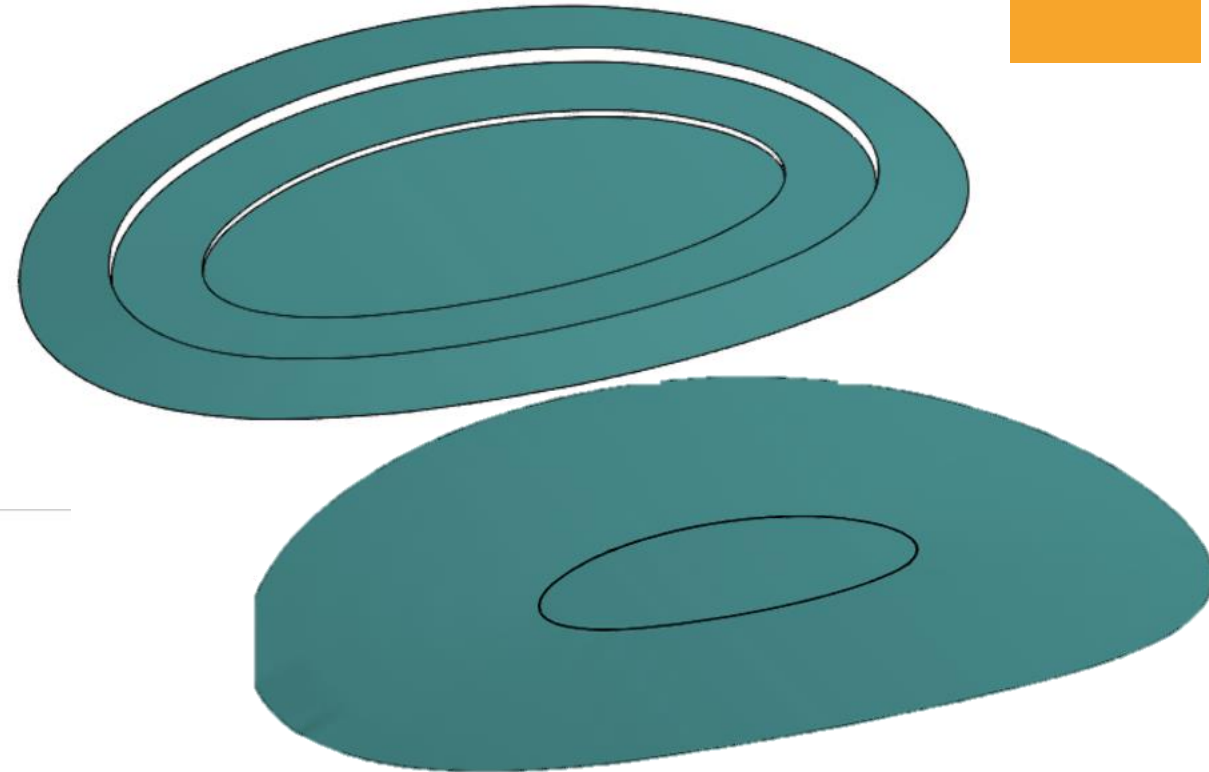


(3)

T4.1 – M24 – Export possibilities

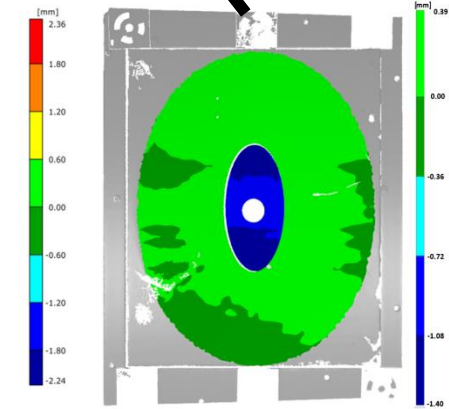
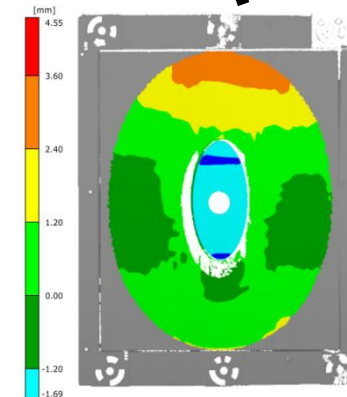
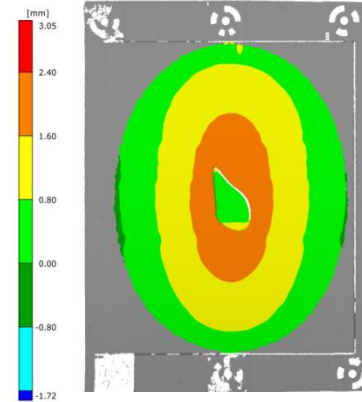
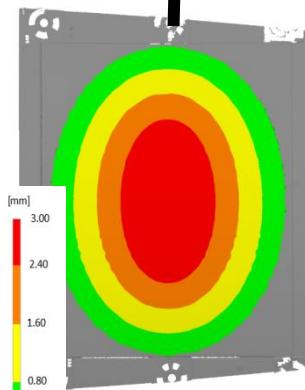
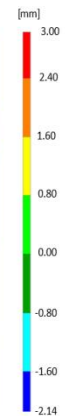
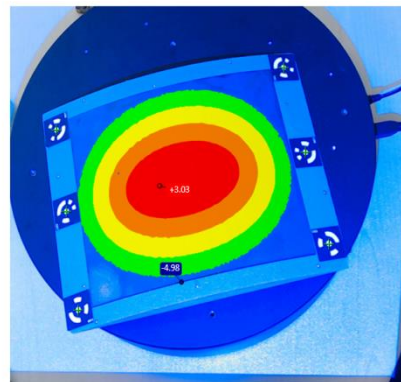
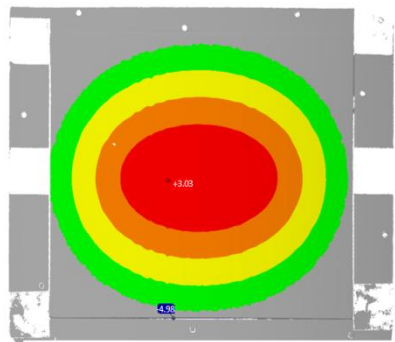
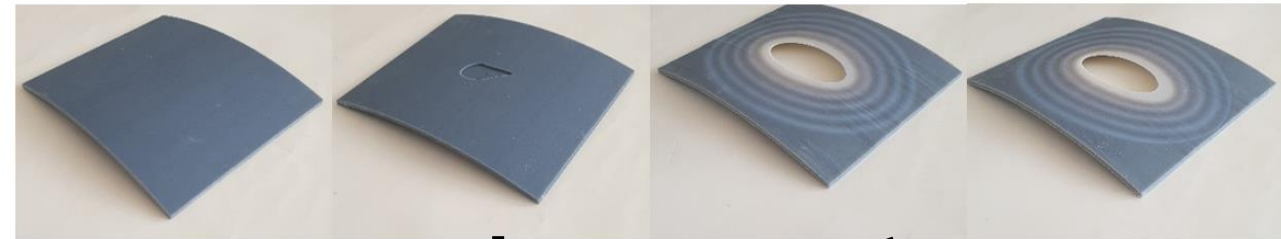
- Working on report and data export functionality
 - CAD export of scarf contour
 - PDF report during scarfing

Name	Änderungsdatum	Typ	Größe
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Layer 1.igs	09.09.2024 09:54	IGS-Datei	19 KB
Layer 2.igs	09.09.2024 09:54	IGS-Datei	18 KB
Layer 3.igs	09.09.2024 09:54	IGS-Datei	20 KB
Layer 4.igs	09.09.2024 09:54	IGS-Datei	22 KB
Layer 5.igs	09.09.2024 09:54	IGS-Datei	24 KB
Layer 6.igs	09.09.2024 09:54	IGS-Datei	27 KB
Scan.refxml	09.09.2024 09:52	REFXML-Datei	10 KB



T4.1 - M24 - Lab-Scale test

- System trials and verification with predefined scarf structure
- tests with augmented reality
- curved CFRP panel for further testing in construction

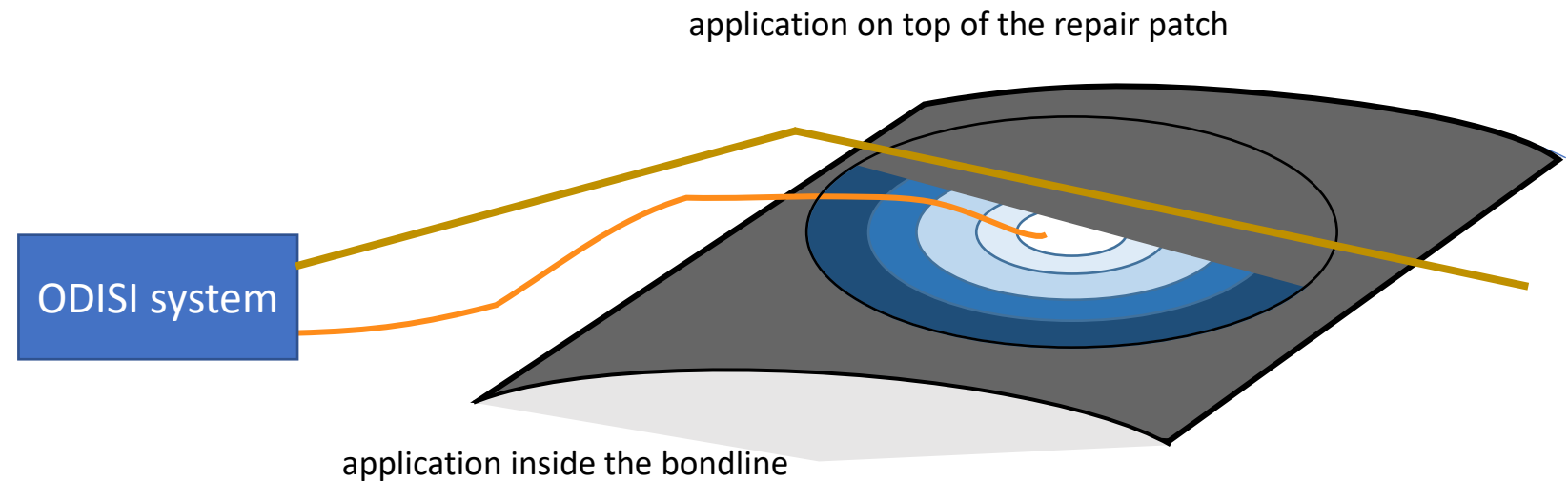


T4.4

Smart bonded composite repair solution

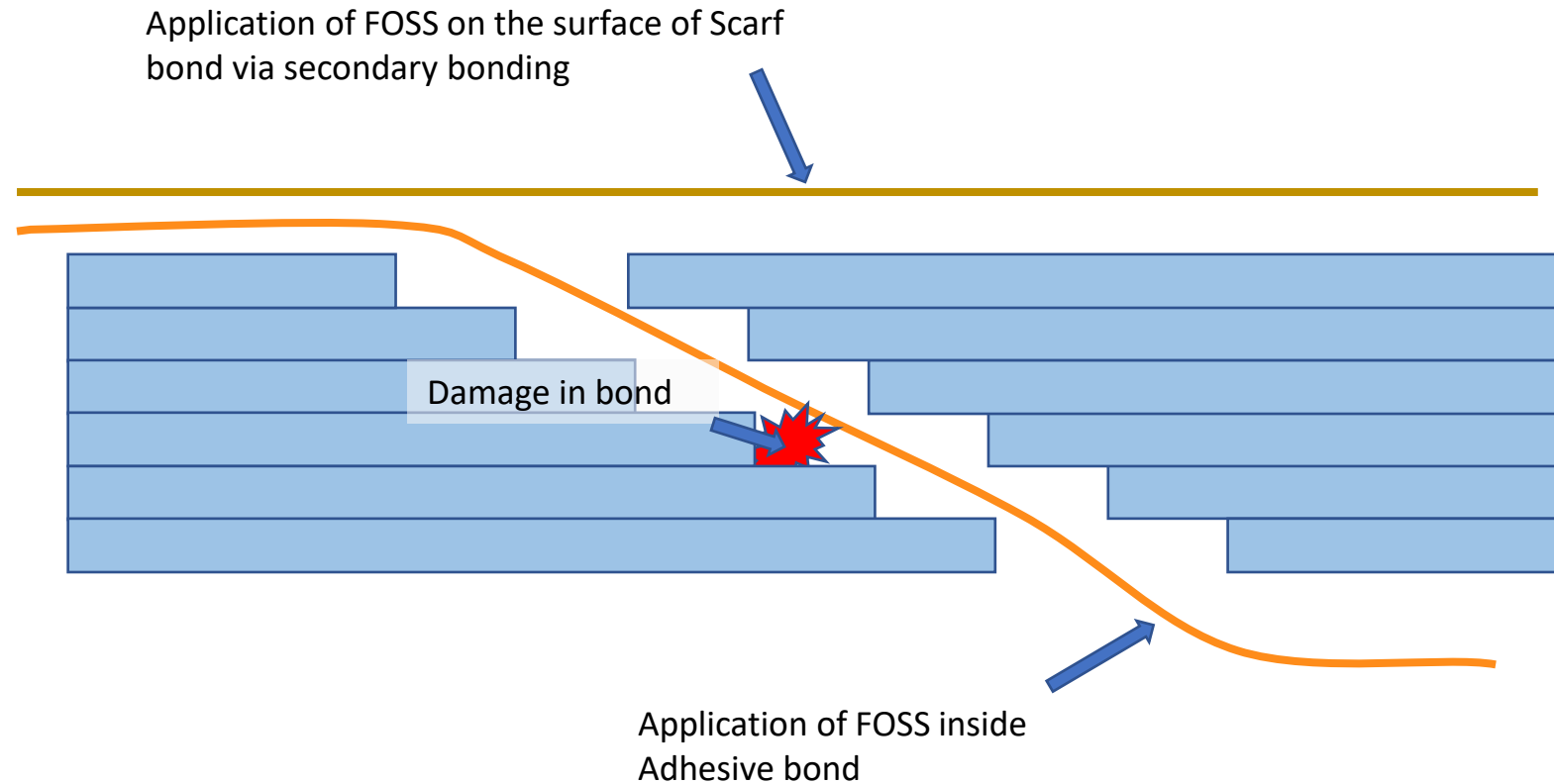
Application of FOSS to scarf-repairs

- Aim: Integrating fiberoptic sensors into a composite patch repair
 - integration on the surface through secondary bonding
 - integration directly into the bonding line between patch and workpiece



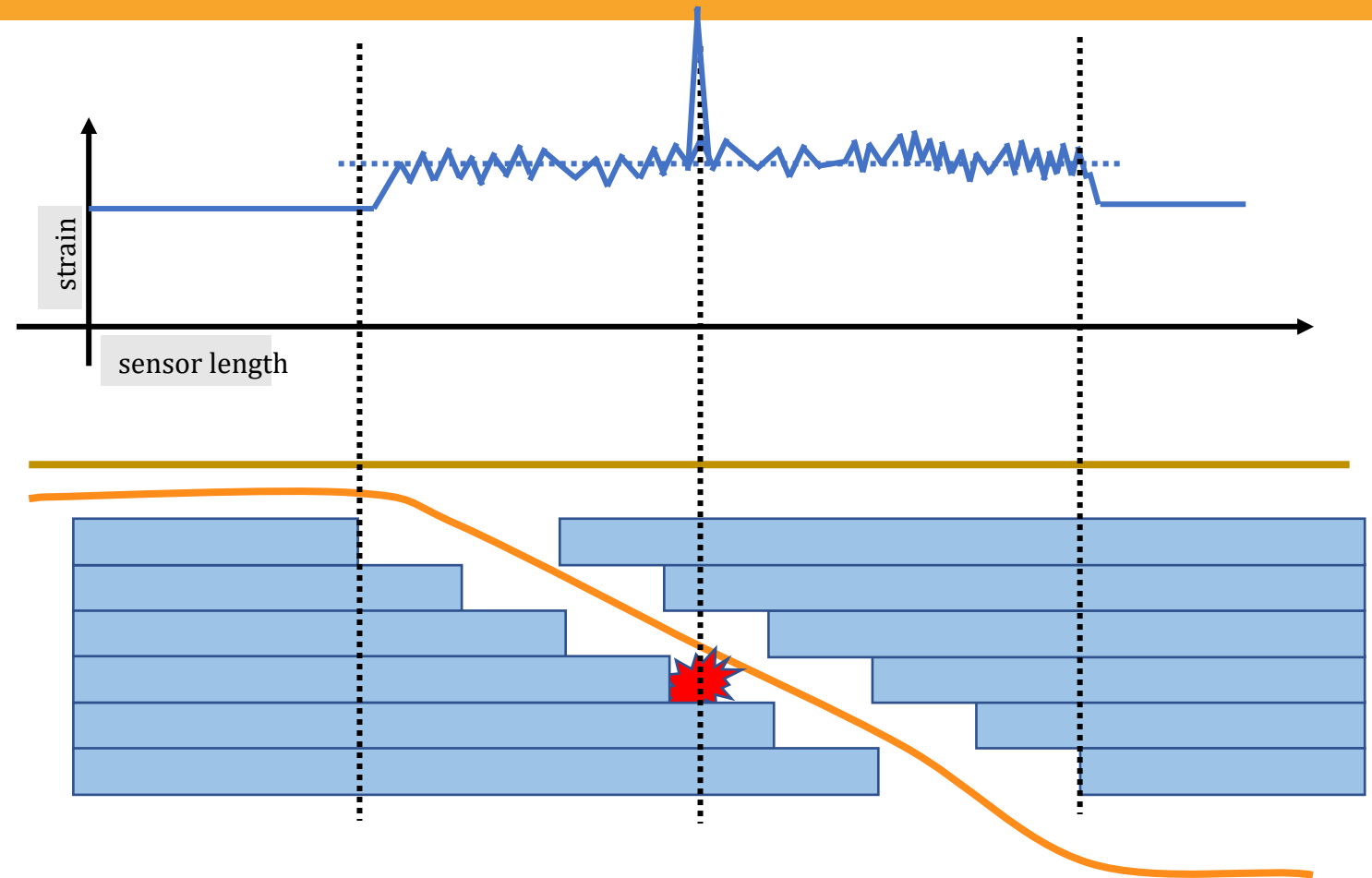
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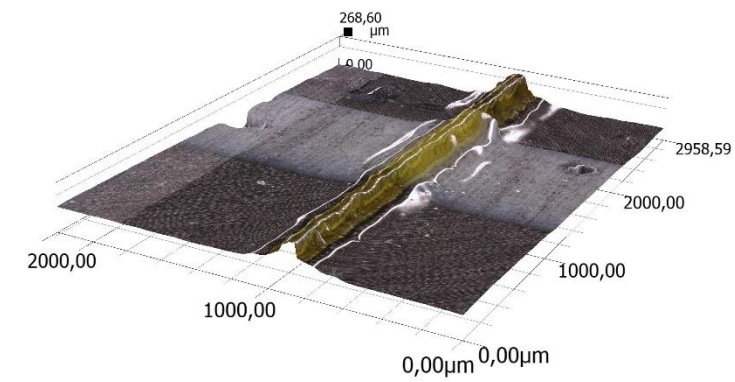
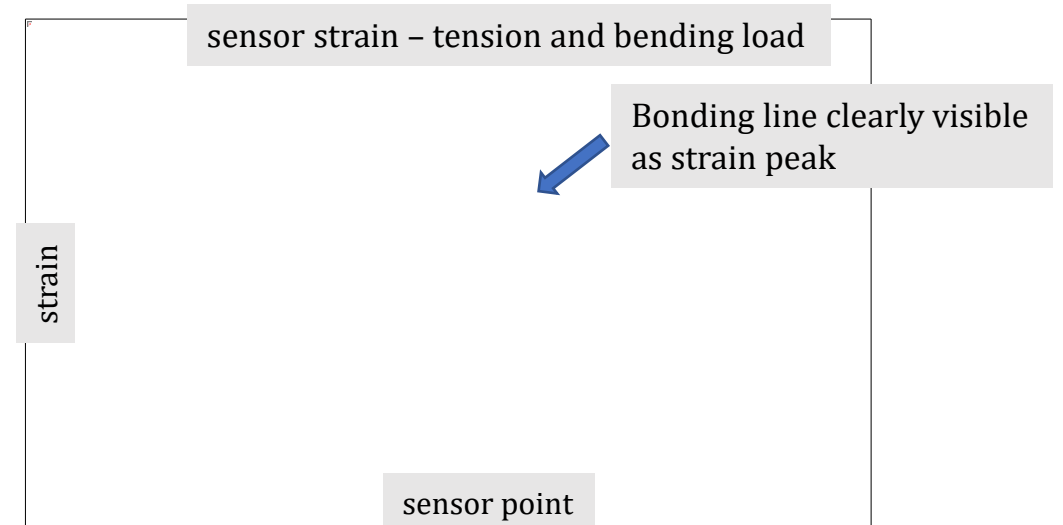
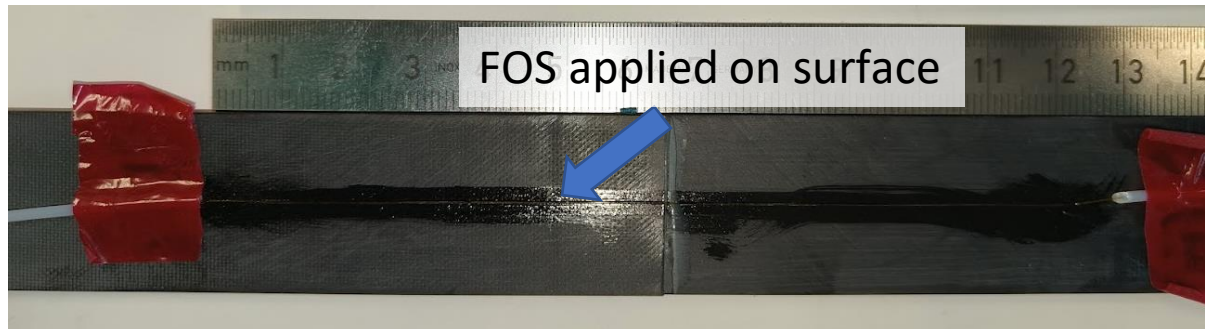
Application of FOSS to scarf-repairs

- Integrating fiberoptic sensors into a composite patch repair
- Identifying damages inside scarfed adhesive joint



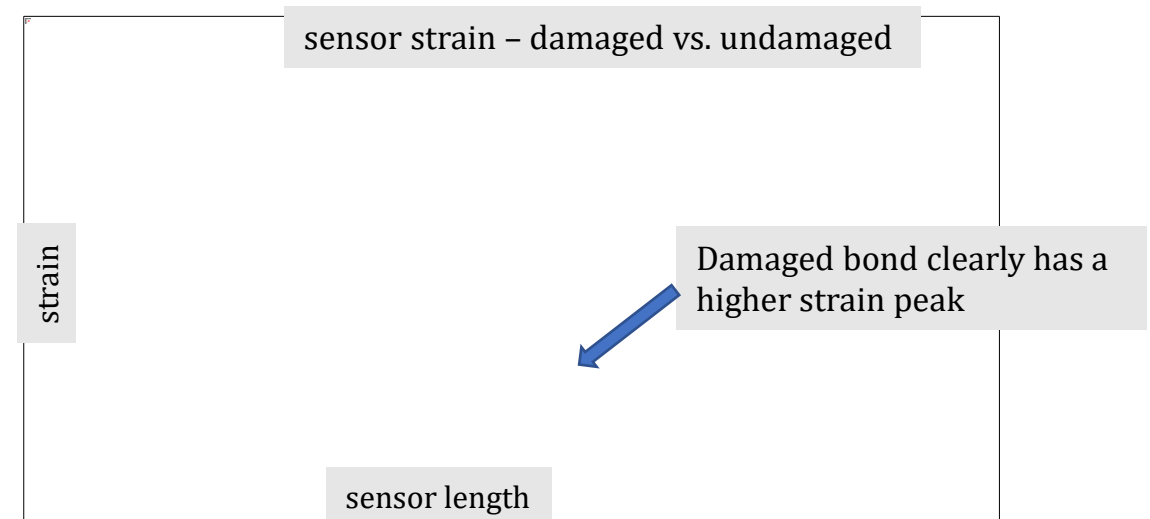
Application of FOSS to scarf-repairs

- Integrating fiberoptic sensors into a composite patch repair
- Identifying damages inside scarfed adhesive joint
 - Practical application of FOSS on top of scarfed adhesive joints



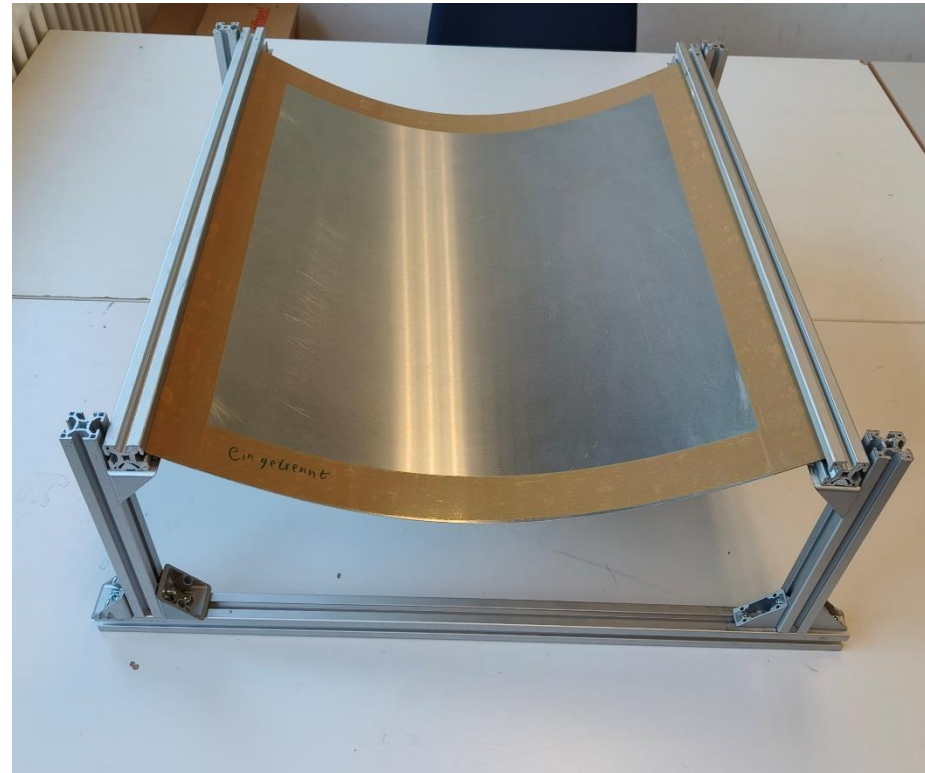
Application of FOSS to scarf-repairs

- Integrating fiberoptic sensors into a composite patch repair
- Identifying damages inside scarfed adhesive joint
 - Practical application of FOSS on top of scarfed adhesive joints
 - Identifying damaged joints



Application of FOSS to scarf-repairs

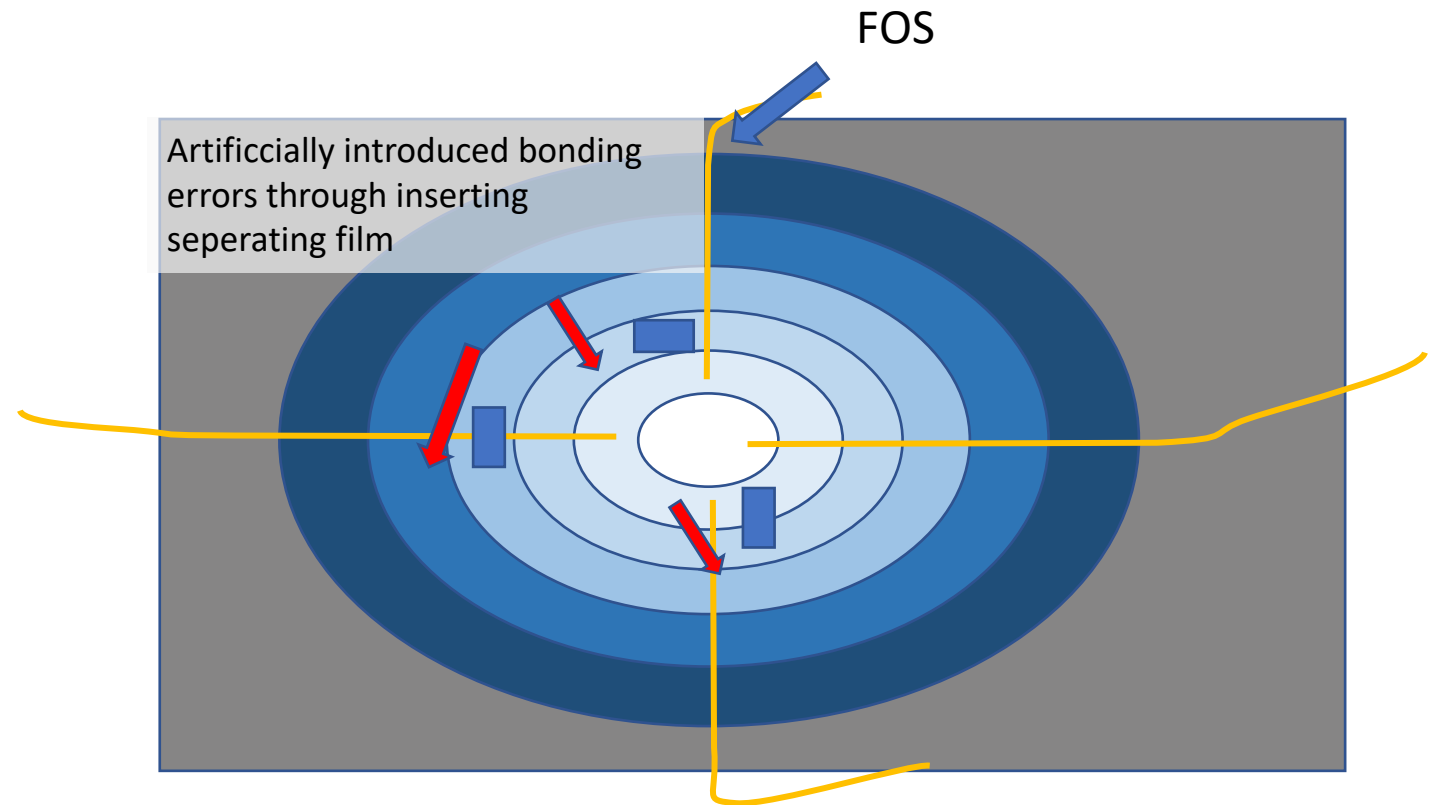
- Manufacturing of a proper patch repair



Moulding tool for manufacturing of curved carbon fiber plate

Application of FOSS to scarf-repairs

- Manufacturing of a proper patch repair
- Equipping the patch repair with fiber optic sensors
- Introducing artificial disbond into the adhesive bond

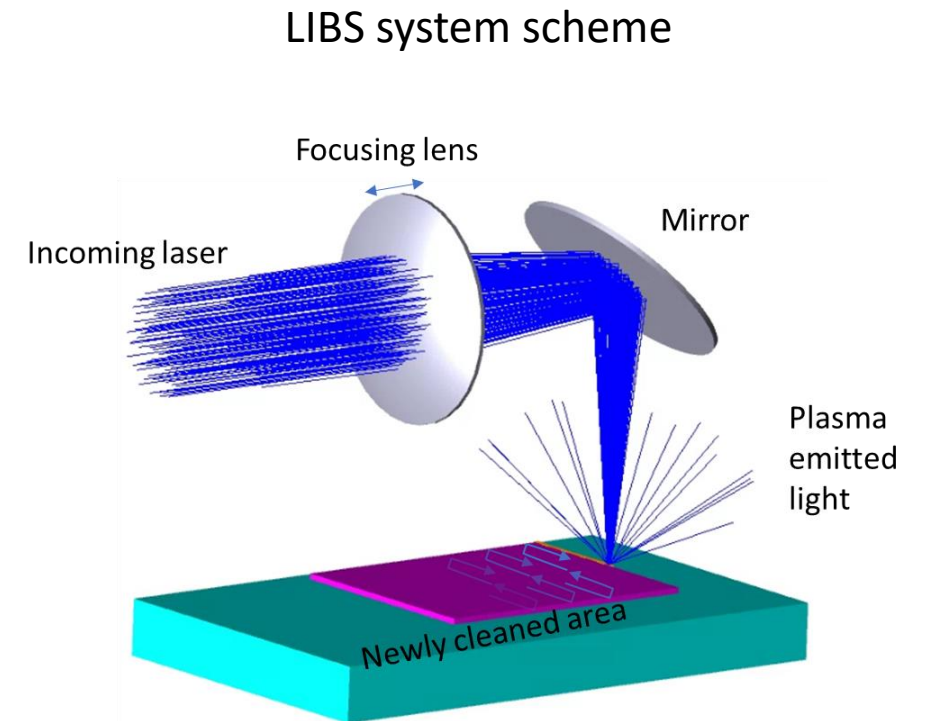
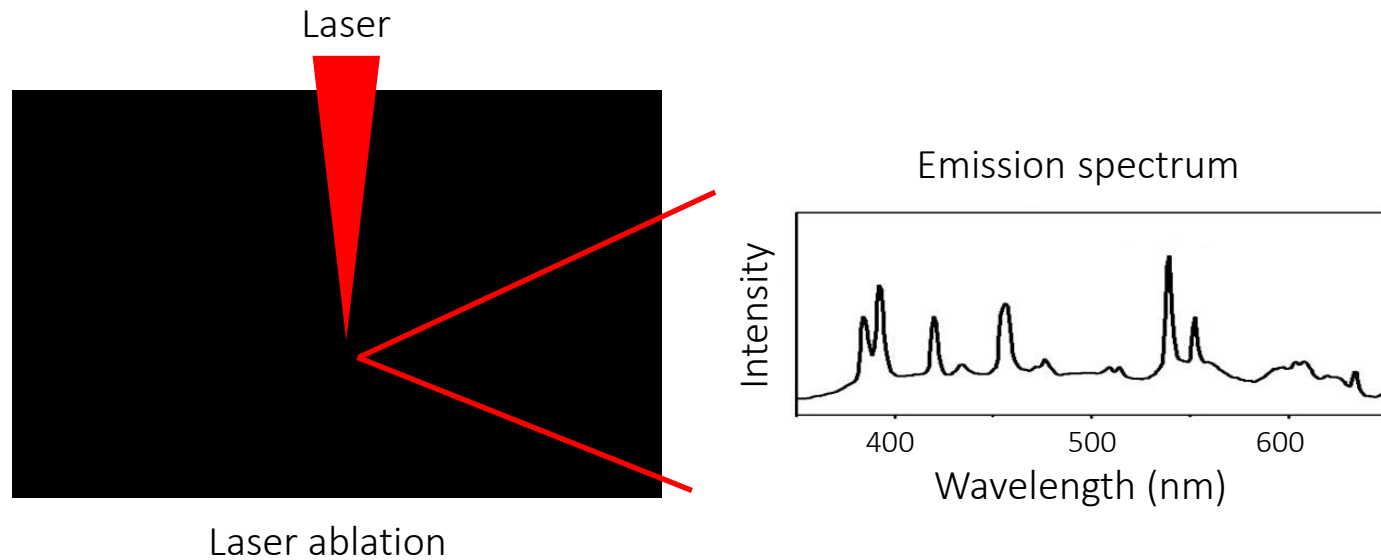


T4.2
Laser-ablation system coupled with LIBS module
for surface preparation of scarf repair

AIMEN

T4.2 Laser-ablation system coupled with LIBS module for surface preparation of scarf repair (Lead: AIMEN; Partners: GMI, ZIEG) (M4-M30).

Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS)



- Provides information about chemical composition of sample
- Analysis of plasma generated during laser ablation
- Atomic emission spectroscopic technique for elemental analysis

T4.2 Laser-ablation system coupled with LIBS module for surface preparation of scarf repair (Lead: AIMEN; Partners: GMI, ZIEG) (M4-M30).

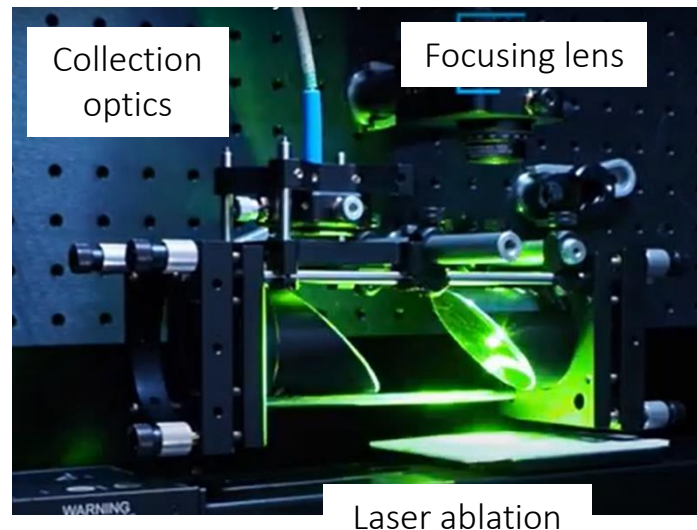
Development of a LIBS system for surface preparation verification

In GENEX, AIMEN will develop a system for surface preparation verification based on mapping the contaminants using LIBS-based monitoring with the aim of guaranteeing the optimal repair conditions leading to optimum bonding of the repair patch.

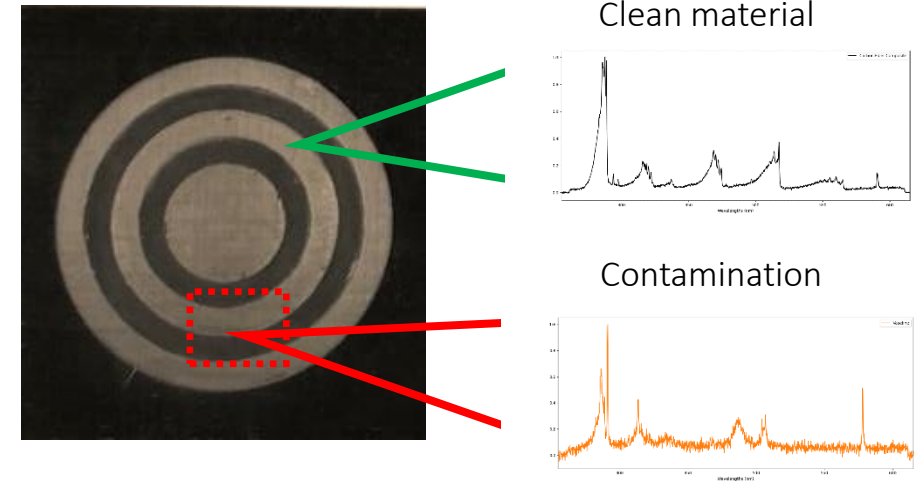
Surface prepared for repair



LIBS analysis

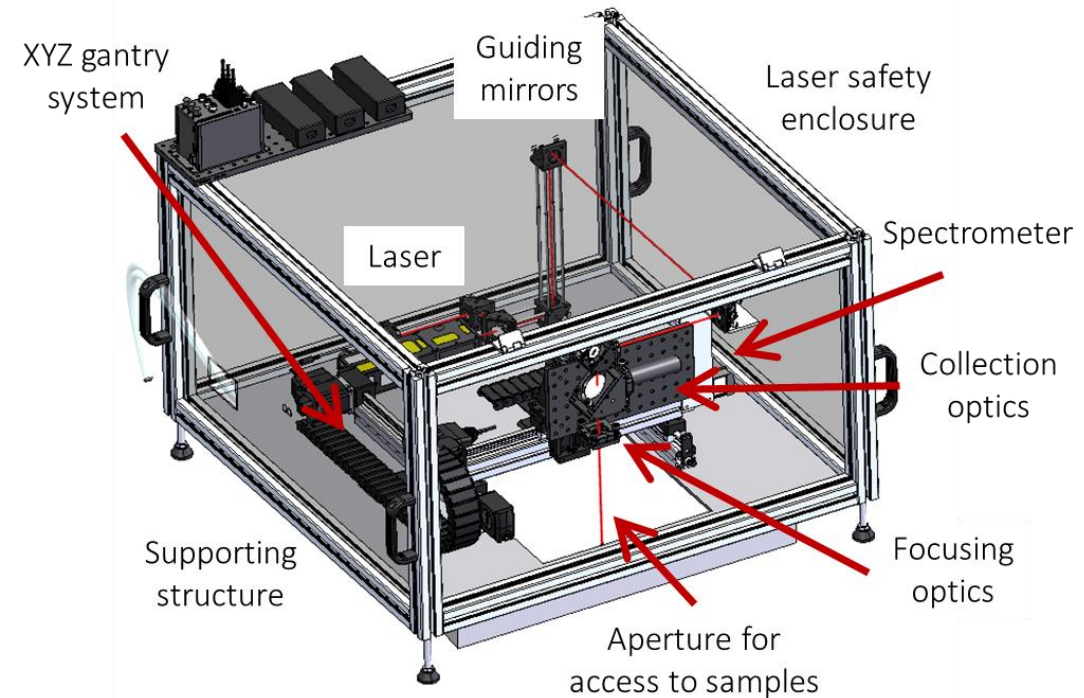


Verification of cleanliness of prepared surface



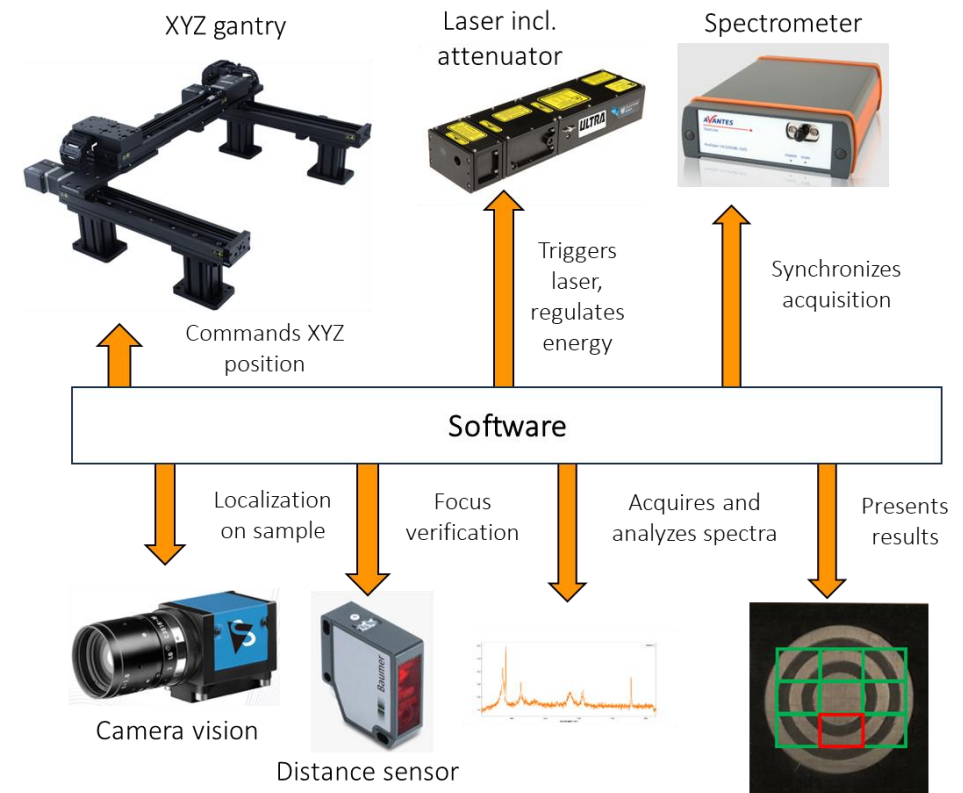
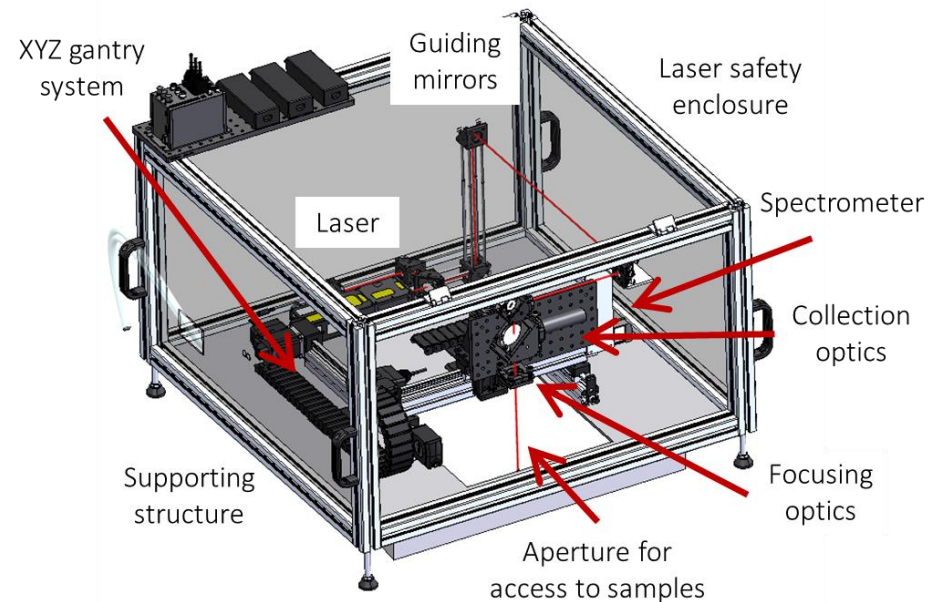
T4.2 Laser-ablation system coupled with LIBS module for surface preparation of scarf repair (Lead: AIMEN; Partners: GMI, ZIEG) (M4-M30).

- Design of portable system
 - Mechanical, electrical and overall integration of components
 - Optomechanical design of laser path and collection optics
 - Accessibility and safety considerations



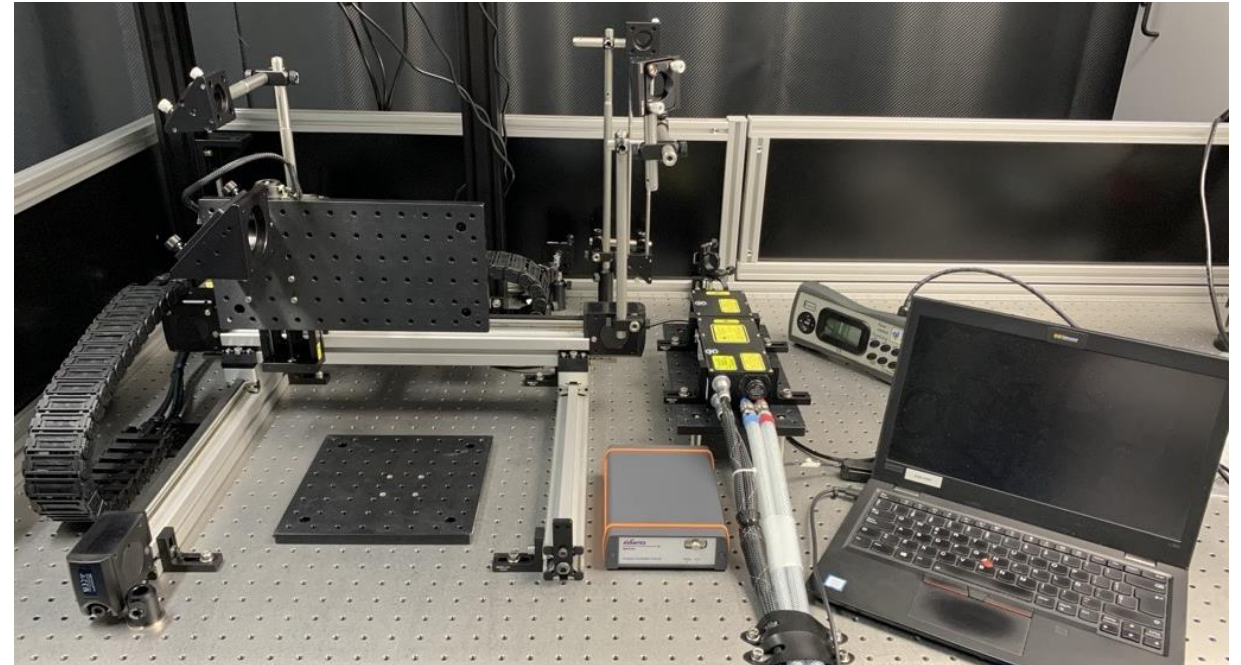
T4.2 Laser-ablation system coupled with LIBS module for surface preparation of scarf repair (Lead: AIMEN; Partners: GMI, ZIEG) (M4-M30).

- Portable LIBS system – machine concept



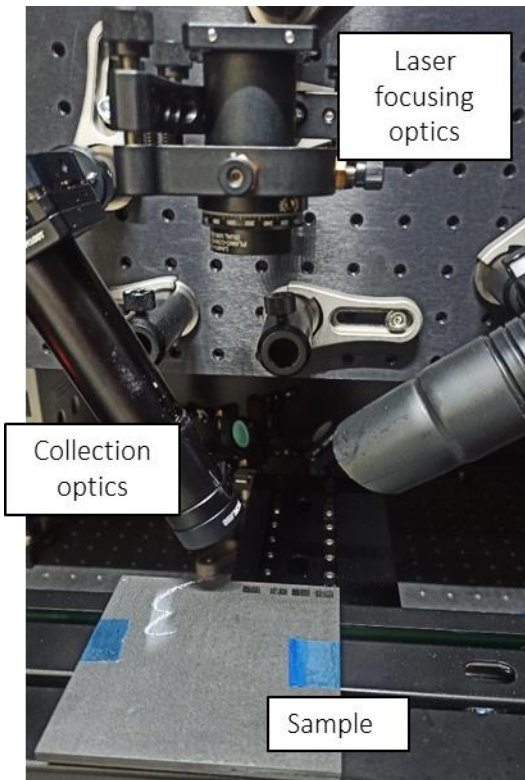
T4.2 Laser-ablation system coupled with LIBS module for surface preparation of scarf repair (Lead: AIMEN; Partners: GMI, ZIEG) (M4-M30).

- Assembly and testing of the LIBS system: lab setup prior system integration
 - Testing individual components
 - Design and testing of optical path and alignment procedure for process and acquisition
 - Integration of gantry system, laser, spectrometer and measurement devices (distance sensor and camera)
 - LIBS testing using dedicated GENEX equipment

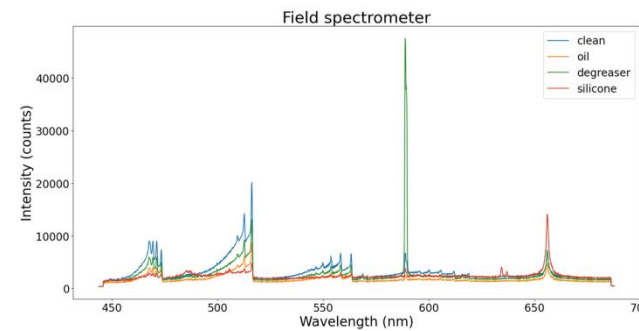


T4.2 Laser-ablation system coupled with LIBS module for surface preparation of scarf repair (Lead: AIMEN; Partners: GMI, ZIEG) (M4-M30).

- Tests at lab LIBS system

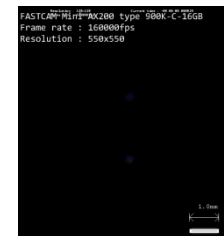
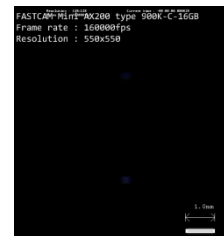


Field spectrometers tests

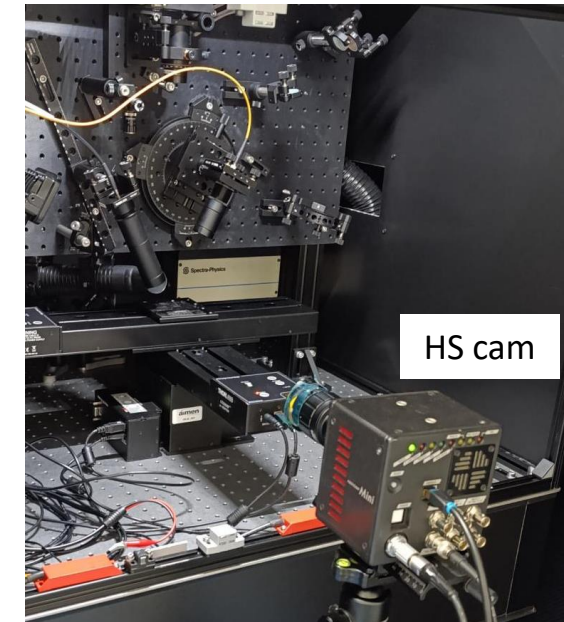


Fundamental plasma studies

Clean sample Contaminated sample

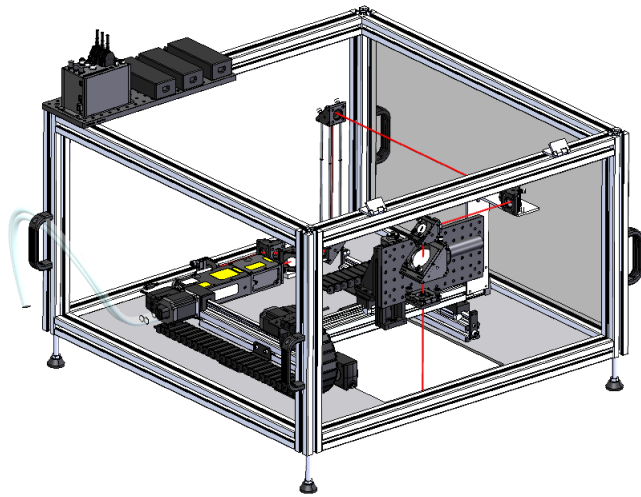


Comparative tests of different collection systems



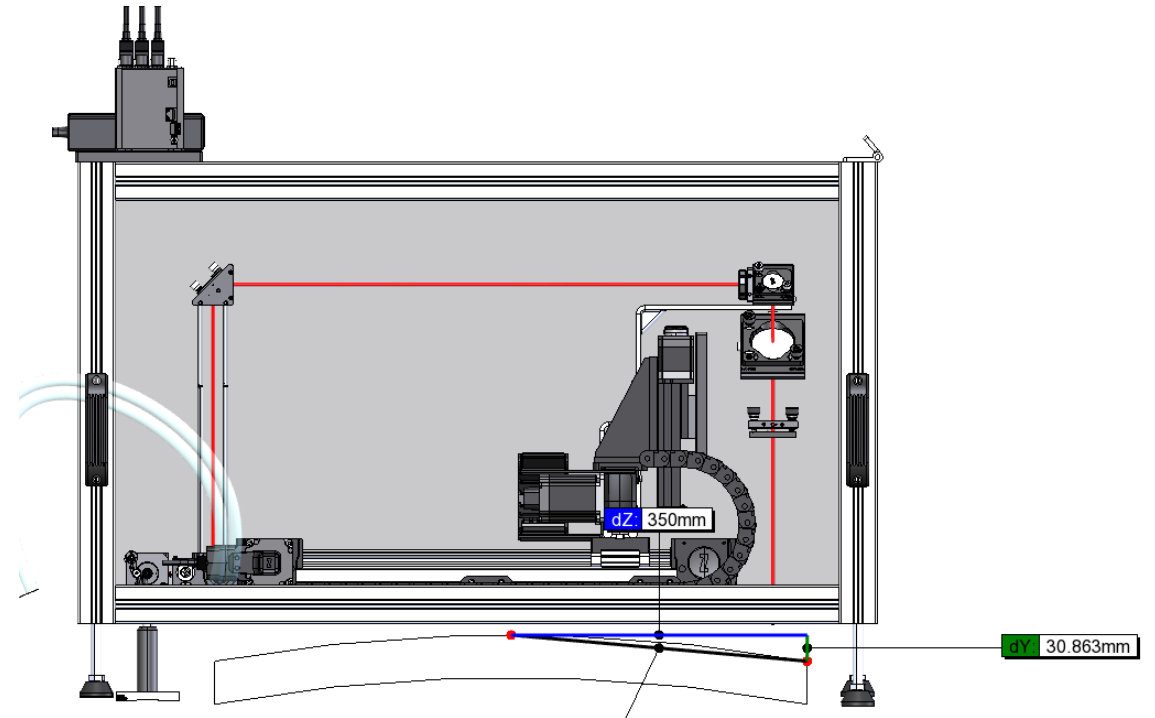
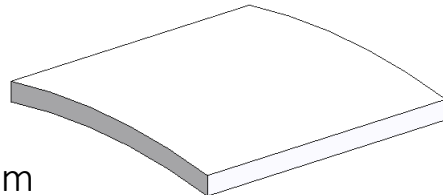
T4.2 Laser-ablation system coupled with LIBS module for surface preparation of scarf repair (Lead: AIMEN; Partners: GMI, ZIEG) (M4-M30).

- Compatibility with demo



Proposed demo part

- Aprox. dimensions (GMI):
 - Area: 700 x 700 mm
 - Radius of curvature: 2-3 m

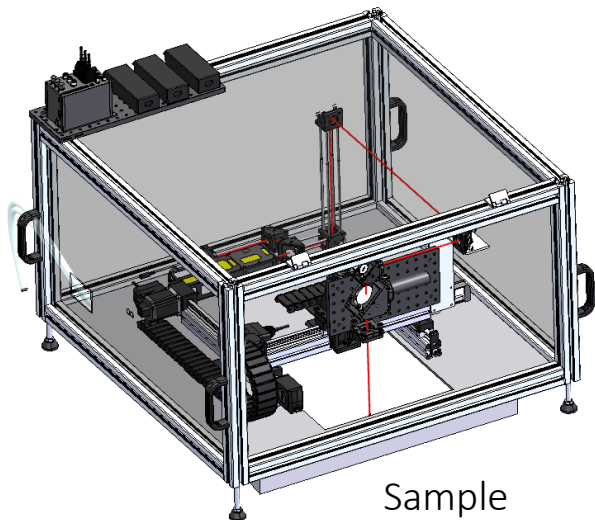


Z-axis range of gantry system = ± 35 mm \rightarrow height difference of demo can be compensated

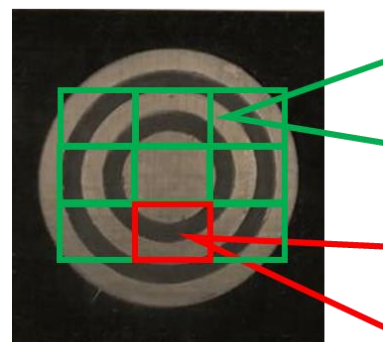
T4.2 Laser-ablation system coupled with LIBS module for surface preparation of scarf repair (Lead: AIMEN; Partners: GMI, ZIEG) (M4-M30).

- Integration into the Genex IoT platform

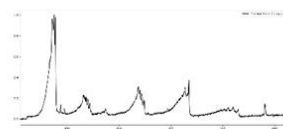
Portable LIBS system



Sample



Clean material



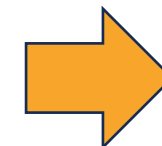
Contamination



Analysis of contamination status on selected interrogation points

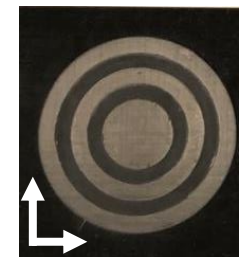
Matrix of results (.csv)

	X1	X2	X3
Y1	OK	OK	OK
Y2	OK	OK	OK
Y3	OK	NOK	OK



GENEX IoT

Image as reference of coordinate system (bmp?)



T4.3

Digital transformative composite repair heating

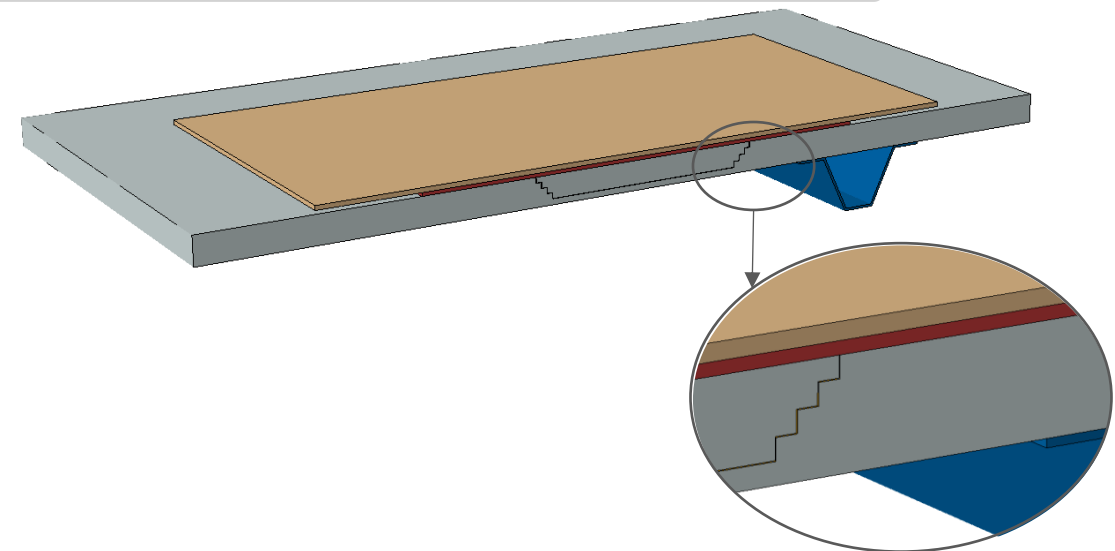
ITAI / GMI

Initial approach for scarf repair

Goal: Define a methodology to design optimal heating blanket geometries for customized repairs.

Numerical model definition:

- Geometric definition of the scarf (with layer orientation)
- Adhesive/resin curing process definition
- Material thermal properties (Conductivity, heat capacity and density with orientations)
- Heating sources properties (Heat flux)
- External conditions (Natural convection)



Simplify numerical model to reduce computational cost.

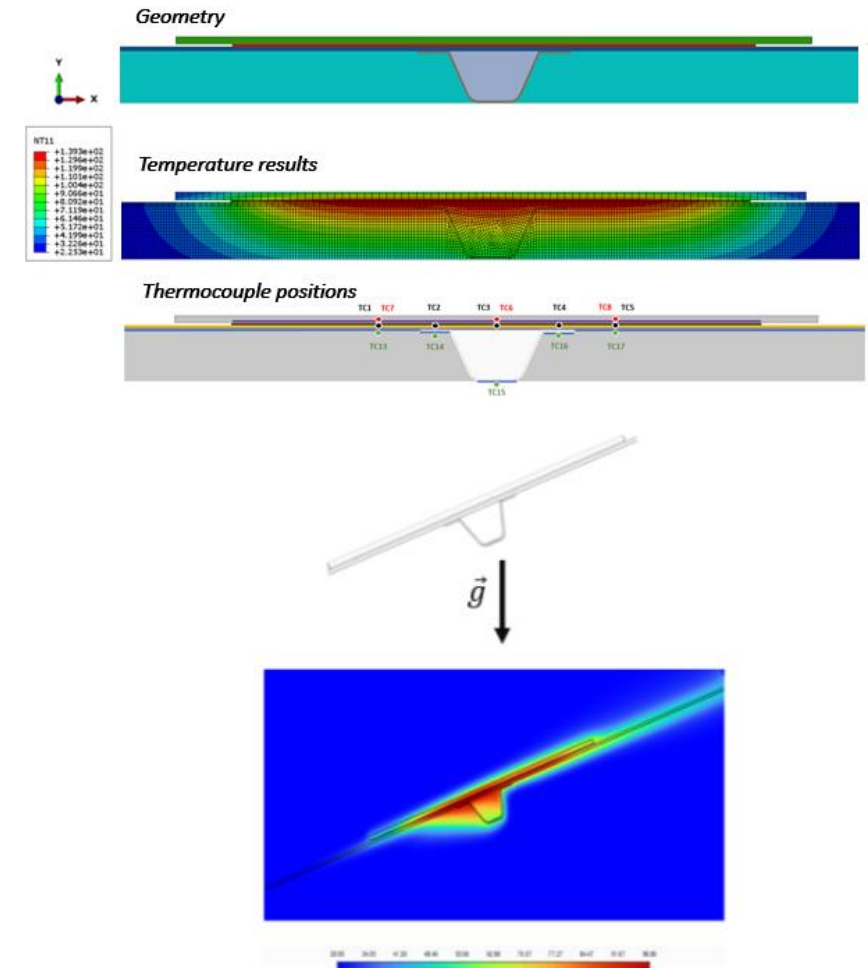


Run a large number of simulations (DoE) to cover the full range of possible repair scenarios.

Result: A ROM (reduced order model) to compute in real time the repair model that will give the optimal blanket design for a particular repair.

Cost efficient simulation of the repair process

- A thermal conduction FE 2D model of a cross-section of the repair area was validated with experimental data of a horizontal repair. The model was able to run in 3s.
- A DoE of 500 simulations was defined, parameterized and run.
- From the DoE results, a reduced order model (ROM) was trained to determine in real time the temperature field distribution. Poor behaviour with stringer position was detected.
- This model was not able to account for temperature gradients caused by hot air rise when the repair plane is different from the horizontal.
- A CFD model was built and run for several repair angles in order to characterize the influence of the fluid temperature in the convection coefficient.



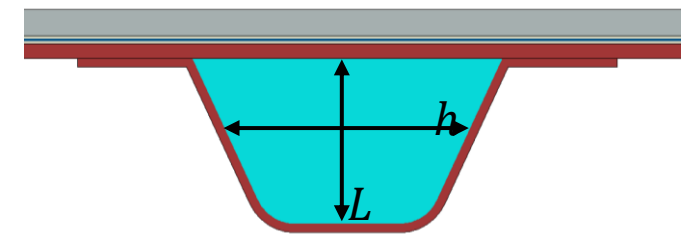
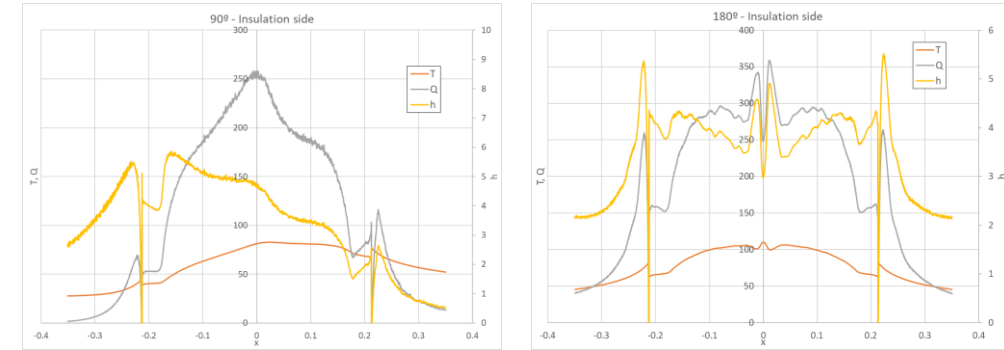
Cost efficient simulation of the repair process

- Convection coefficient are calculated from the temperatures and heat fluxes normal to the external surfaces of the solids A DoE of 500 simulations was defined, parameterized and run.

$$q = h(T - T_{ref})$$

- Multi linear adjustment of the convection coefficient
- This convection behavior has been implemented in a user subroutine and included in the FEM simulation
- The behaviour of the air conductivity inside the stringer was modelled.

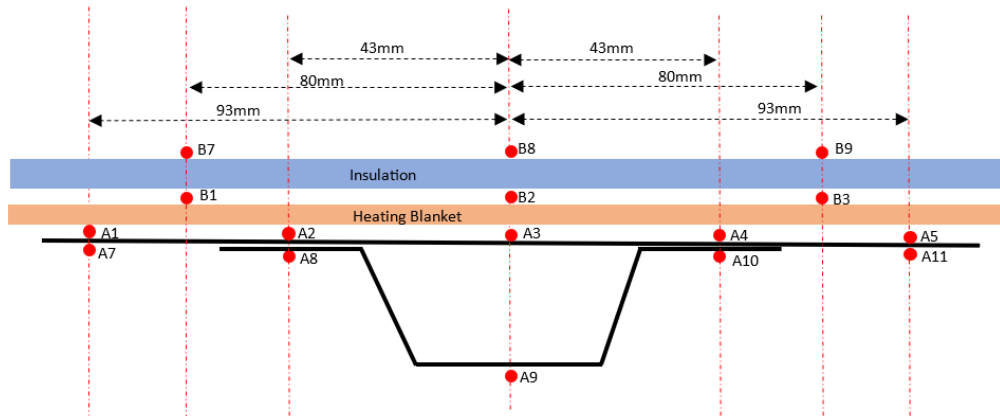
$$Q = \frac{kA}{L} (T_1 - T_2)$$



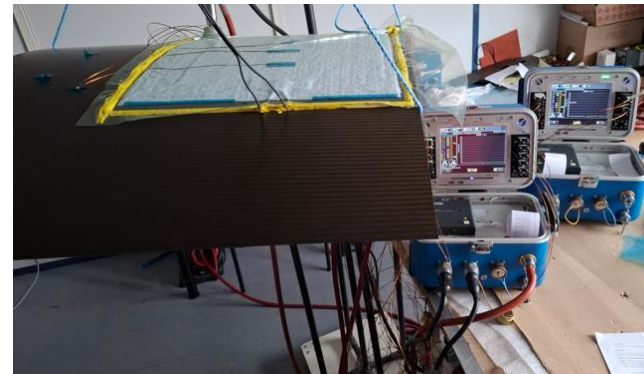
Cost efficient simulation of the repair process - Validation

- Objective: Obtain experimental results to validate the numerical results
- Tests configuration:

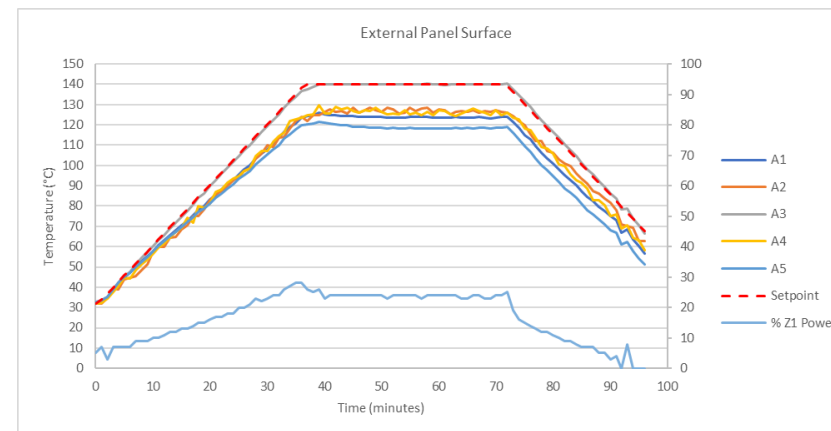
Thermocouple's locations



Horizontal configuration

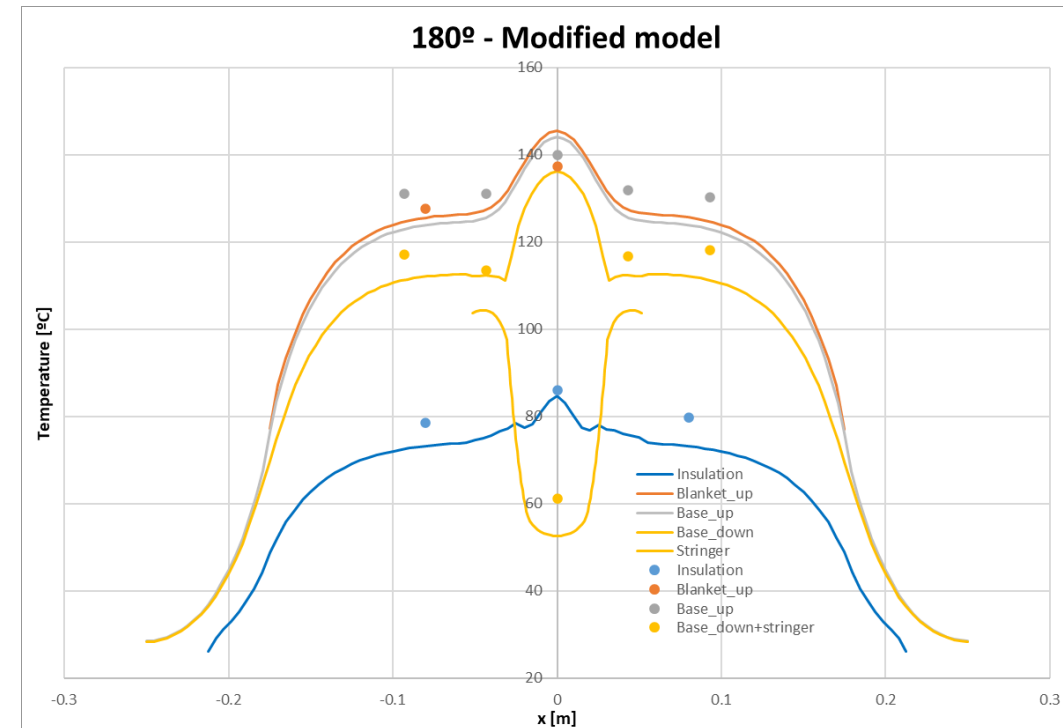


Vertical configuration



Cost efficient simulation of the repair process - Validation

- The behaviour of the hot air inferred from the CFD analysis was included in the 2D FEM simulations to account in a cost-efficient way for the repair slope

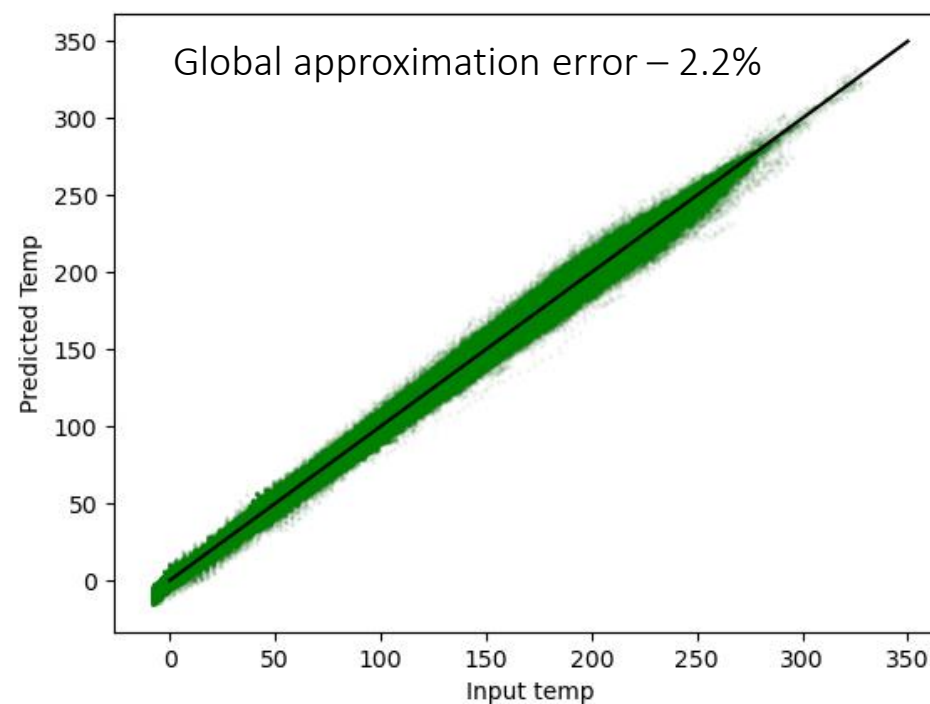


Technical progress: Digitally assisted blanket design

DoE:

From the preliminary DoE we concluded that a larger amount of data was required, specially in the data concerning the stringer position. Thus, the new DoE has been designed in the following way:

	Min	Max
External Temperature	-10	30
Surface thickness	1	5
Stringer thickness	1	3
Stringer wing length	15	40
Stringer core length	15	40
Insulation thickness	3	6
Repair Diameter	50	400
Stringer position	-1	1
Slope	0	180



Digitally assisted blanket design

Repair definition
Blanket design

Repair definition

External temperature: 20

Base thickness: 3

Stringer thickness: 1.5

Stringer wing thickness: 25

Stringer core height: 25

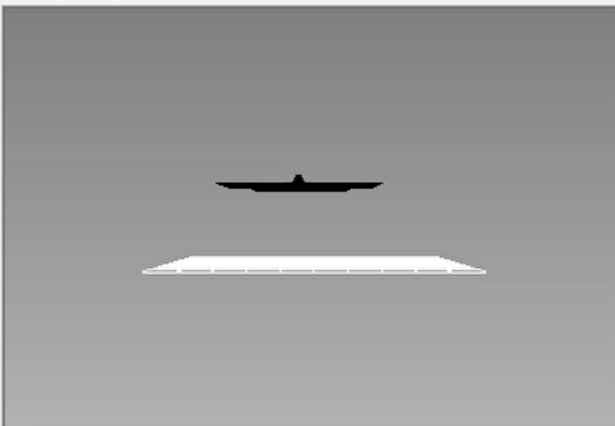
Insulation thickness: 5

Repair Diameter: 100

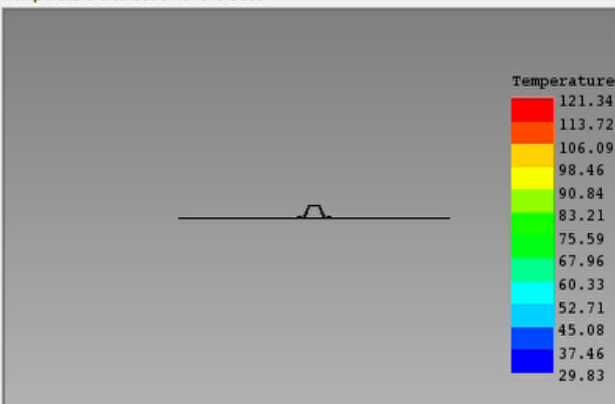
Stringer position: 0

Repair slope: 0

Repair geometry



Temperature distribution of the base



Temperature
121.34
113.72
106.09
98.46
90.84
83.21
75.59
67.96
60.33
52.71
45.08
37.46
29.83

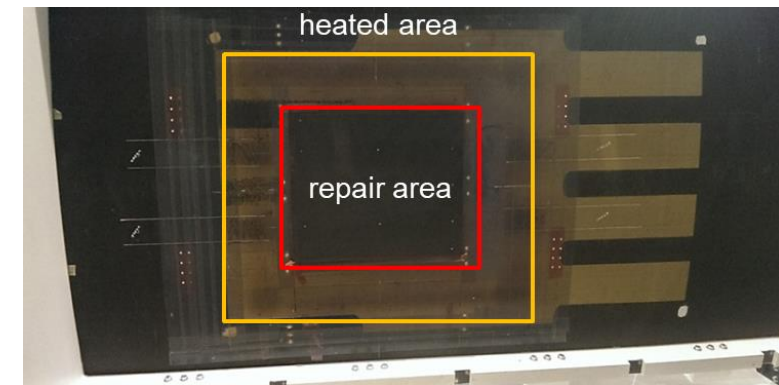
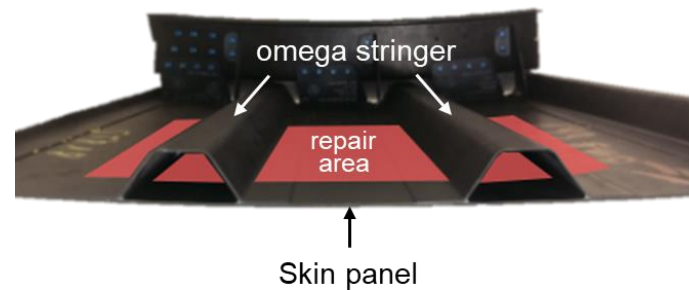
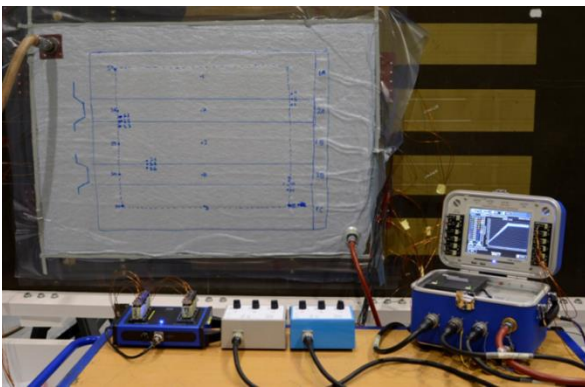
Contribution to WP5 demonstrator:

Application of the control algorithm to a real type repair scenario :

The Demonstrator component provided by **Aernnova Illescas**, will be repaired with the assistance of new digital-based solutions for automated hot bonding with customized heating blankets and on-line control of the repair bonding process.

The application of the developed algorithm will require to install specific and compatible hardware to receive all the real-time data (temperature, power) which are transmitted from the ANITA hot bonder using the IoT platform.

Alongside the algorithm will be able to calculate in real time the optimal condition parameters and use them to re-program the heat cycle of the repair process.



On-line control of the repair bonding process

An advanced strategy for thermal control of the repair bonding process will be developed based on temperature control (ANITA89 hot bonder-GMI), to optimize the heat generation and diffusion during composite repair. An optimized Model Predictive Control (MPC) architecture, using surface mounted thermocouples as control sensors and heating blankets as heat suppliers (actuators) will be used. The thermo-kinetic model developed in T4.1. will be used to ensure the complete curing of the entire patch area by controlling heat supply based on real-time sensor's data. Constraints to avoid overheating will be set by GMI and included in the control loop. A perturbation observer based on a Kalman filter will be implemented to account for non-linear variable convection coefficients. The design, control and data transfer tools will be validated on representative prototype in WP5 using CONDUCTOR®90 cuttable blankets.

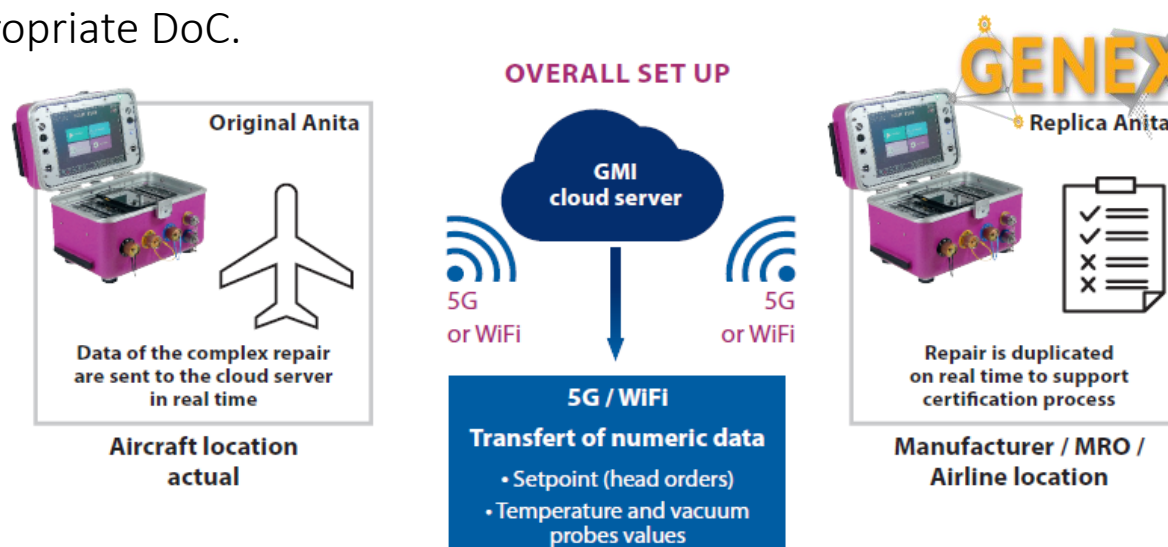
Upcoming tasks - On-line control of the repair bonding process – Final vision



DIGITAL-PHYSICAL TWIN

Connecting ANITAs via WiFi or 5G, to transmit in real-time data to create “Replica” through:

- A second ANITA, identical to the “Original” repair (Physical Twin)
- Calculation of the **Degree of Curing (DoC)** applying corresponding material curing equations (**Digital Twin**).
- **GENEX Digital Twin Model**, which will also provide feedback for **extension of curing cycle** and / or **increase of set Temperature**, to ensure appropriate DoC.



4. Standards supporting the digital transformation of aviation

Specific challenges:

The fast-paced digital transformation observed in several industrial sectors is extending to aviation and air transport. The need to anticipate the changes and evolutions of aviation standards requires timely and upstream investigation, through several case studies, of the application of radically new concepts and processes for aviation products, processes and operations (such as machine-learning techniques, 'internet of things'). This includes developing capabilities such as tools and methods for design, simulation (digital twins), verification and validation and their application to aircraft certification, regulatory approval and safety monitoring processes.

Scope:

The targeted actions focus on specific safety issues, for which no new technological development will be undertaken but, building on previous research and innovation actions, the relevant changes to the aviation safety standards will be prepared and coordinated with stakeholders:

- Develop a robust safety risk assessment methodology to support the identification and consolidation of safety hazards and their mitigation using numerical tools (the 'digital twin' concept);
- Prepare the roadmap for the next evolution(s) of airworthiness and maintenance standards for new digital applications and validate the new capabilities for the associated performance and risk assessment.

Contribution to EASA activities: Roadmap for the changes to aviation standards

Impact: EU preparedness for the deployment of digital innovation in aviation and air transport

Part 8 - Page 469 of 479



*Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2021-2022
Climate, Energy and Mobility*

Results needed by: 2024

Legal entities:

European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3; D-50668 Köln; Germany

Form of Funding: Indirectly managed actions

Type of Action: Indirectly managed action

Indicative timetable: 1st quarter 2022

Indicative budget: EUR 2.10 million from the 2022 budget

Should we start preparing ourselves and our organizations for the coming
Digital Transformation ???



THANK YOU!

CONNECT WITH GENEX

 101056822

 01.09.2022

 42 months

 ITAINNOVA

 Dr. Andrea Calvo-Echenique

 info@genex-project.eu

 www.genex-project.eu



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