Mobile Lightweight Hydrogen Storage for large Quantities

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Knowledge for Tomorrow

DLR Strategy for Composite Cryo LH₂ Tank Enabling Zero Emission Flight

- LH2 tank integration options
- LH2 tank design
- Material development
- Manufacturing capabilities
- Test facilities







Integration of LH2 Tanks: Scope and options



Integration of LH₂ Tanks: Scope and options



Trinity of Challenges of an Aircraft LH2 Tank



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Hybrid "Physical-Virtual" Product → Path towards Certification

- Design and analysis
- Tank integration and joining concepts
- Probabilistic analysis
- Process simulation and optimization
- Thermal Analyses
- Thermal fatigue under cryogenic conditions
- Thermal insulation
- Impact on boil-off
- Virtual testing towards certification
- Burst pressure and fatigue life analysis
- Holistic life time assessment incl. SHM
- Digital twin & as-built assessment



CFRP Tank Design Optimization

Aircraft Design

Winding Simulation & Layer Optimization

• Manufacturing Interface





Winding (µWind – commercial)

• CFRP winding simulation

Optimization (tankoh2 – DLR)

• Optimize layer angles automatically

CFRP Tank Design Optimization

Automated Optimization

- Goal: minimize mass
- Parameters: layer angles, hoop layer runout
- Boundary Cond: volume, radius, manufacturing constraints



Manufacturing

- Supply optimal layup
- Band path including thickness accumulation
- Generate machine code





Stepwise Approach: From tubular specimen towards full scale LH2 structure



High Rate Screening:

- Permeability tests
- Material characterization
- Basic manufacturing technology assessment

Higher TRL Validation Options:

- Manufacturing technology assessment
- Tooling concept assessment
- Cryo-shock / sloshing testing
- Simplified burst & fill-and-drain test
- SHM integration

Representative Validation:

- manufacturing demonstration
- Full size tooling effects
- Cryosystem testing
- Burst & fill-and-drain test on certification level

log of process parameters for the digital twin and virtual manufacturing towards LCA and LCCA



"GroFi" Full Size Tank Manufacturing in Stade

Manufacturing Infrastructure

- Multi robot, multi technology (TS/TP) layup
- Filament winding / AFP / ATL hybridisation
- Innovative "Flash Lamp" heating system

Real Time Quality Assurance

- Laser based layup monitoring
- Real time correction of layup deviations
- Mould integrated US sensor process control

Digitalisation

- API based digital machine/shop floor network
- Specialised process support simulations (API)
- Integrated Eco Efficiency Analyses (API)







TS: Thermoset, TP: Thermoplast, AFP: Automatic Fibre Placement, ATL: Automatic Tape Laying, US: Ultrasonic, API: Application Programming Interface

AI based Inline Quality Inspection

Robust and explainable AI analysis...



... of fibre layup defects...



...using original and fully synthesised data for better traceability



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DLR

Margine to hyperplane

Operational Aspects: Approach for Structural Health Monitoring (SHM) of Hydrogen Tanks

- Combination of acousto-ultrasonic (Lamb Wave) and acoustic emission for robust damage detection
- Robust piezoceramic network
- Pattern recognition algorithms for robust damage detection and localization under varying operation conditions
- Automated software for data assessment, damage detection and self-test of piezoceramics

Piezoceramic

- Experience from test of SHM systems in different applications (aeronautic, automotive, wind energy etc.)



3D printed Plug with sealant

Reconstruction of acoustic emission event on hydrogen tank



Certification Aspects: DLR Project HYTAZER & Virtual Product House Digital Design to Certification \rightarrow H2 Tank Components



Close collaboration with Airbus ZEDC, ECOMAT H2Lab, Ariane Group

"Trauen" Cryogenic Tank Test Facility: Towards Certification Capabilities

• 2022

- Tubular Coupons LH₂ Tests (8 dm³)
- Type IV Pressure Tank Test (90 dm³)
- Test Instrumentation

• 2024

- DLR-HYTAZER Certification Strategy
- Submerged (2400 dm³) Test (LN₂ Cryo Shock)
- Full Size LH2 Tank Test Concept

• 2028

- Submerged Full Size Test (LN2 Cryo Shock)
- Full Size LN2 Tank Test (BC tbd.)
- Full Size LH2 Tank Test (BC tbd.)









LH2: Liquid Hydrogen (-253°C), LN2: Liquid Nitrogen (-196°C), BC: Boundary Conditions



Thank you!

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