



**Additive Functionalisation –  
A concept for cost-efficient and  
resource-saving lightweight construction**



# The Speaker



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**Deutsches Zentrum für  
Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR)**

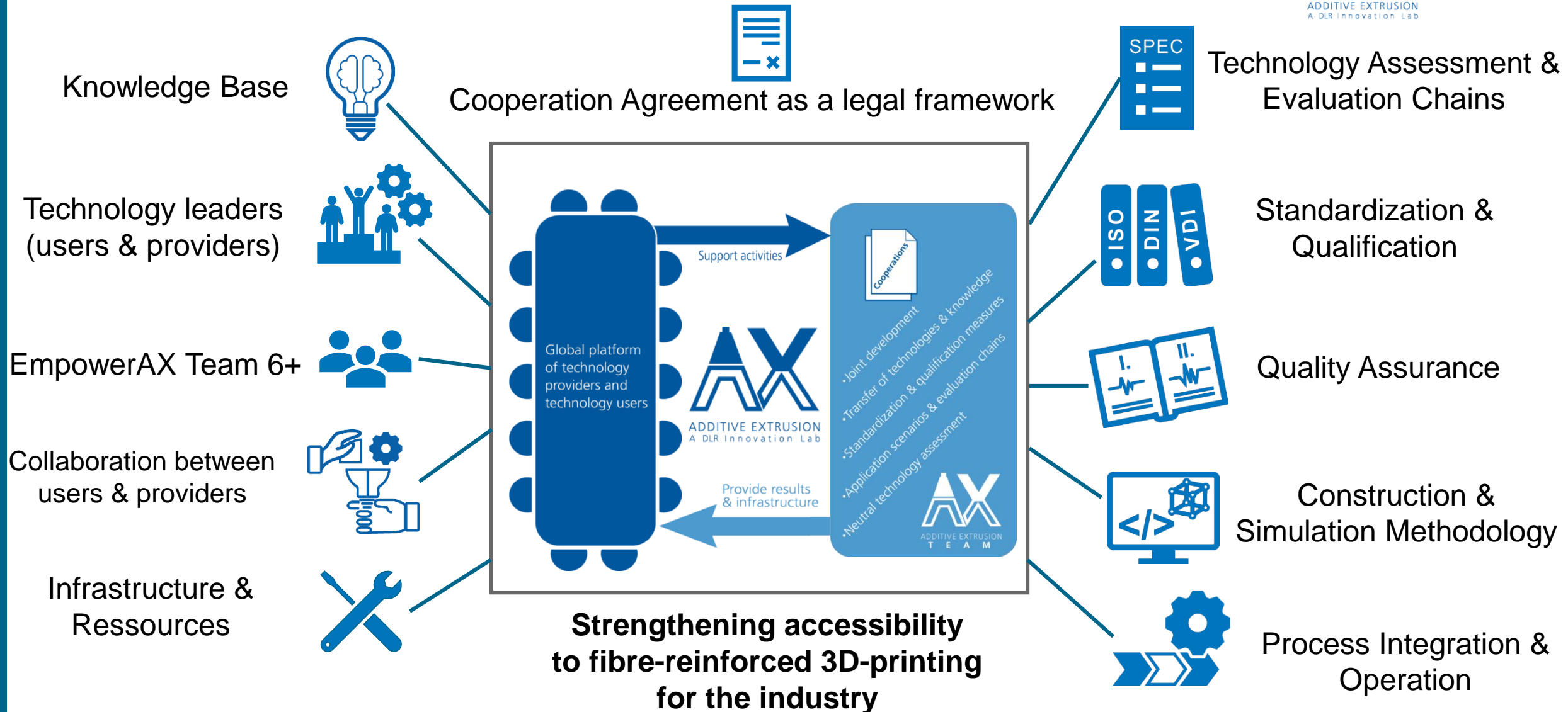
German Aerospace Center

Institute of Lightweight Systems | Innovation

Lilienthalplatz 7 | 38108 Braunschweig

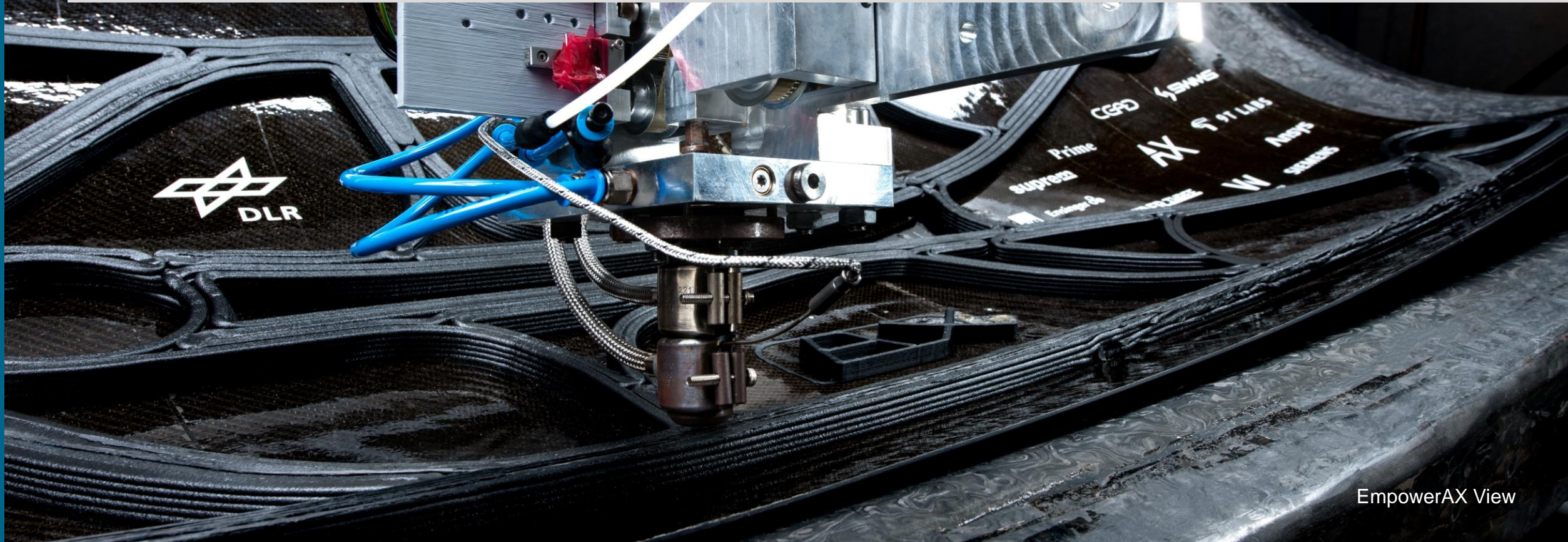
Germany

# DLR Innovation Lab EmpowerAX – An overview



*“The real value of Additive Manufacturing is not in replacing all conventional composites manufacturing processes –*

***The real value of Additive Manufacturing is in developing the right combination of established methods with Additive Functionalisation.”***

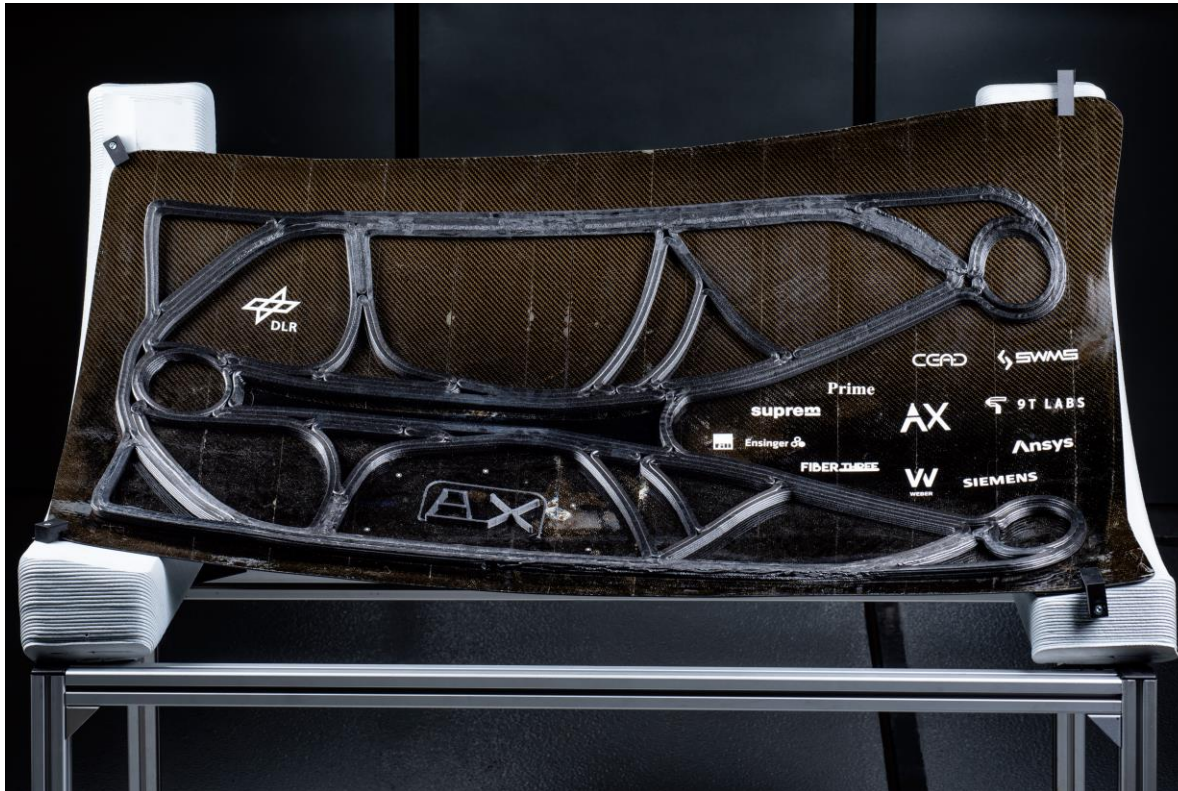




# ADDITIVE FUNCTIONALISATION COMBINATION INSTEAD OF SUBSTITUTION

# The concept of Additive Functionalisation

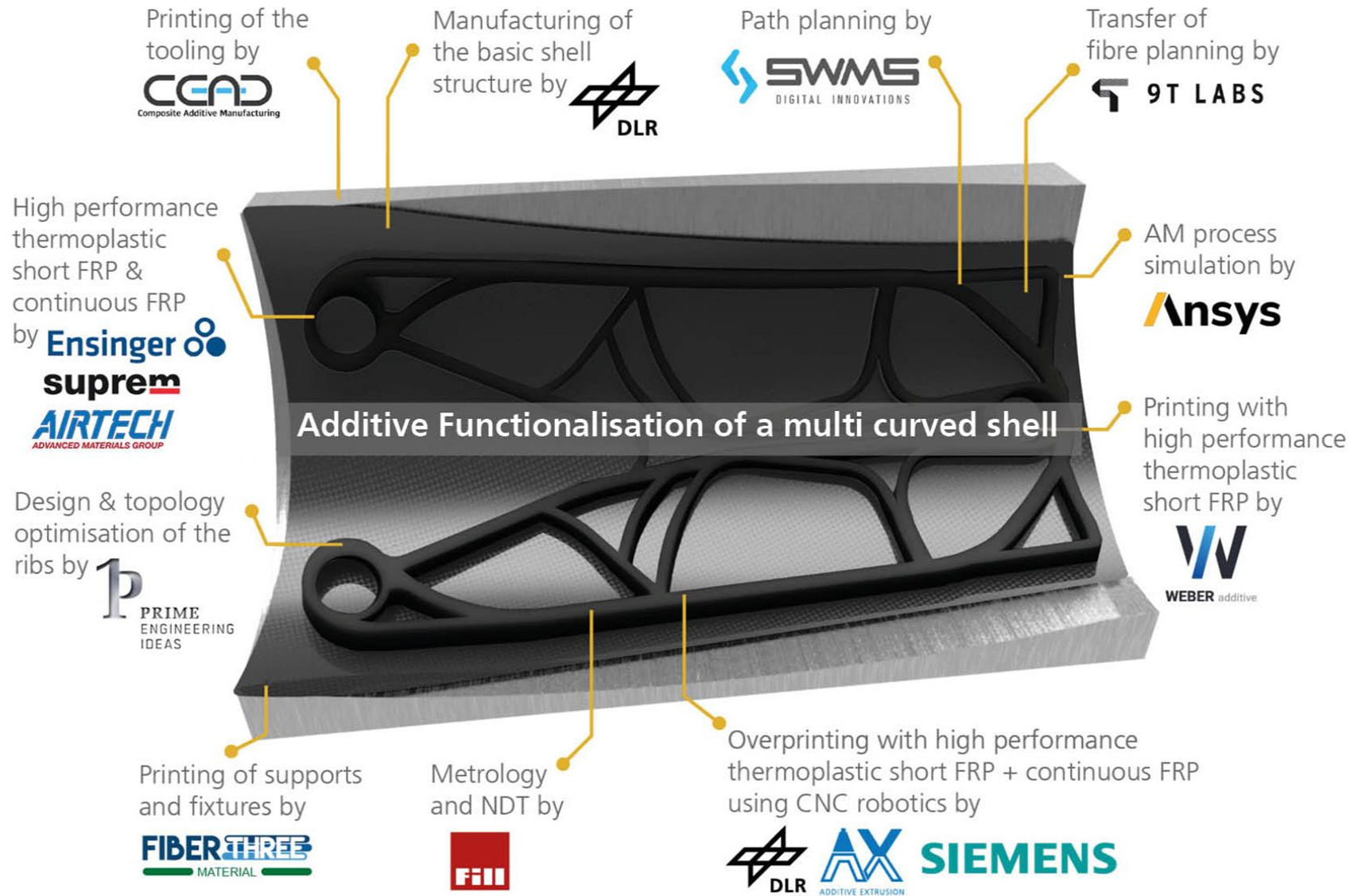
## Combination instead of substitution



- Combination of conventional & additive manufacturing processes
- Combination of different materials
  - Thermoset + thermoplast
  - Short and continuous fibre-reinforced material (SFRP + CFRP)
- Overprinting of a multi-curved Shell

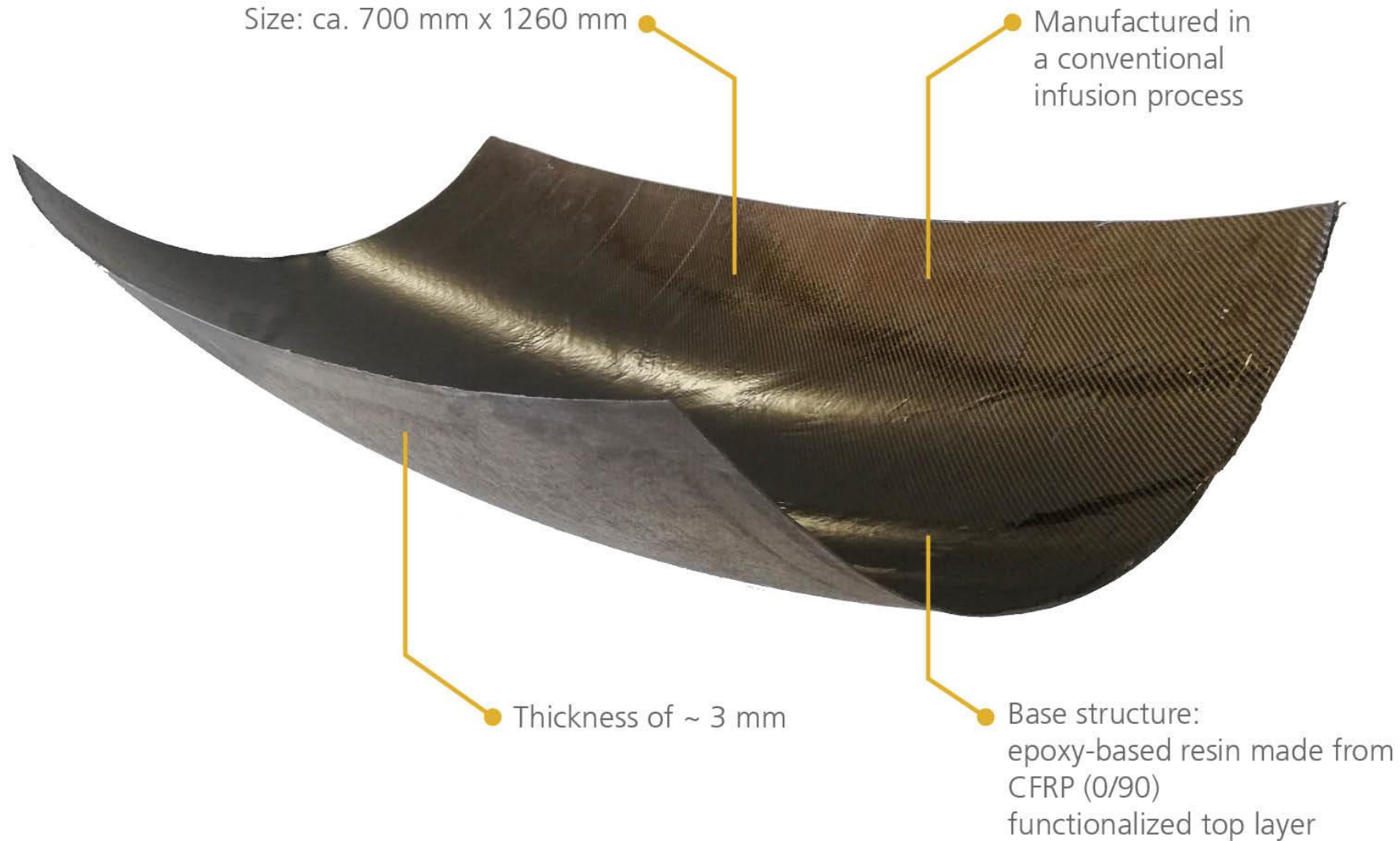
EmpowerAX Demo Part  
„Additive Functionalisation of a multi-curved shell“

# EmpowerAX Demo Part – An example of successful collaboration



# EmpowerAX Demo Part

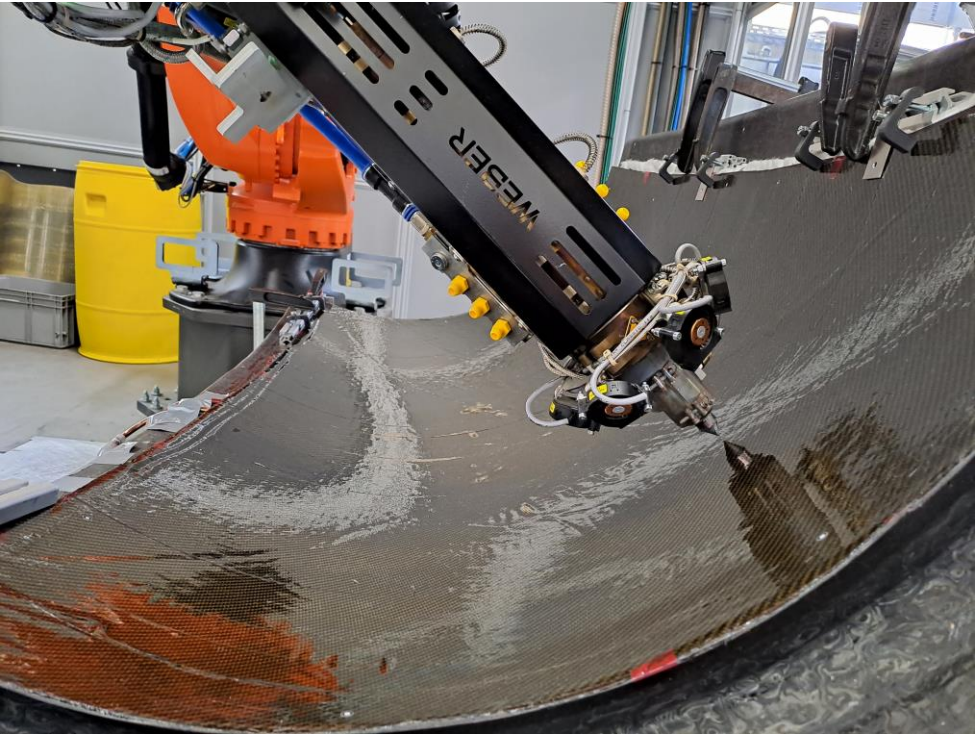
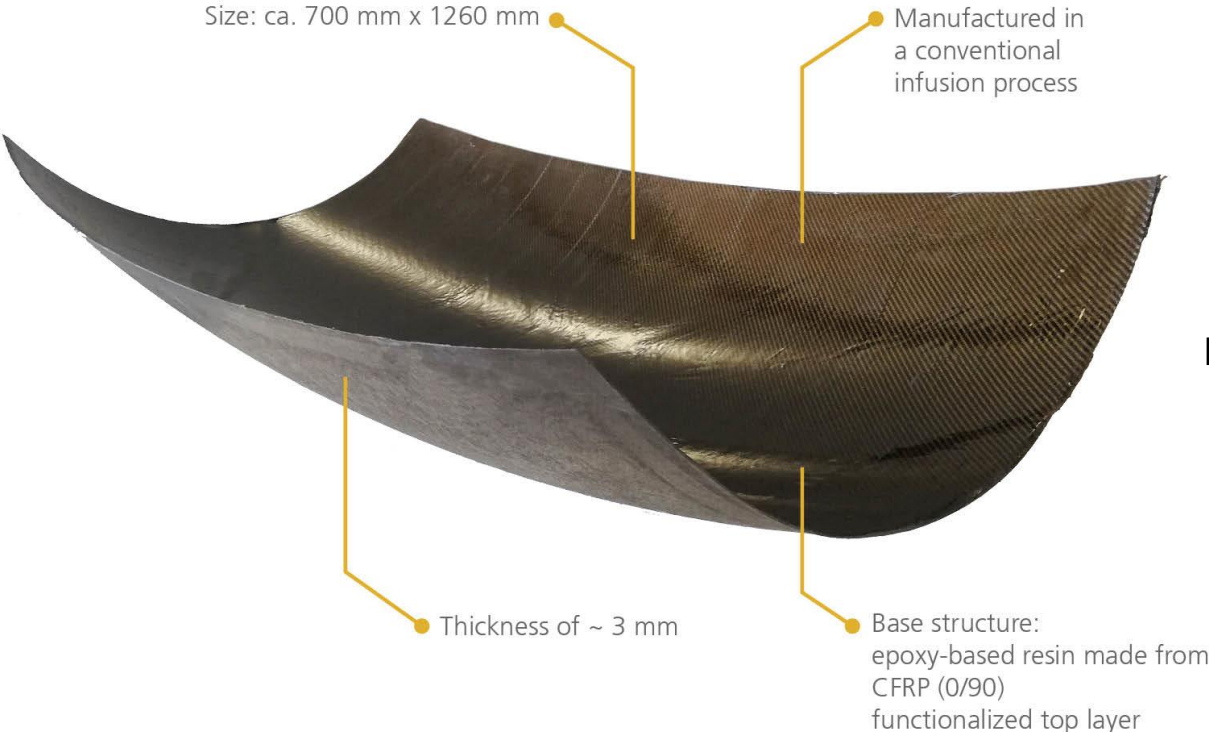
## The Basic Idea





# EmpowerAX Demo Part

## The Basic Idea



Printing of the tooling by  
**CCAD**  
Composite Additive Manufacturing

Manufacturing of the basic shell structure by  
**DLR**

Path planning by  
**SWMS**  
DIGITAL INNOVATIONS

Transfer of fibre planning by  
**9T LABS**

High performance thermoplastic short FRP & continuous FRP by  
**Ensinger**  
**suprem**  
**AIRTECH**  
ADVANCED MATERIALS GROUP

AM process simulation by  
**Ansys**

## Additive Functionalisation of a multi curved shell

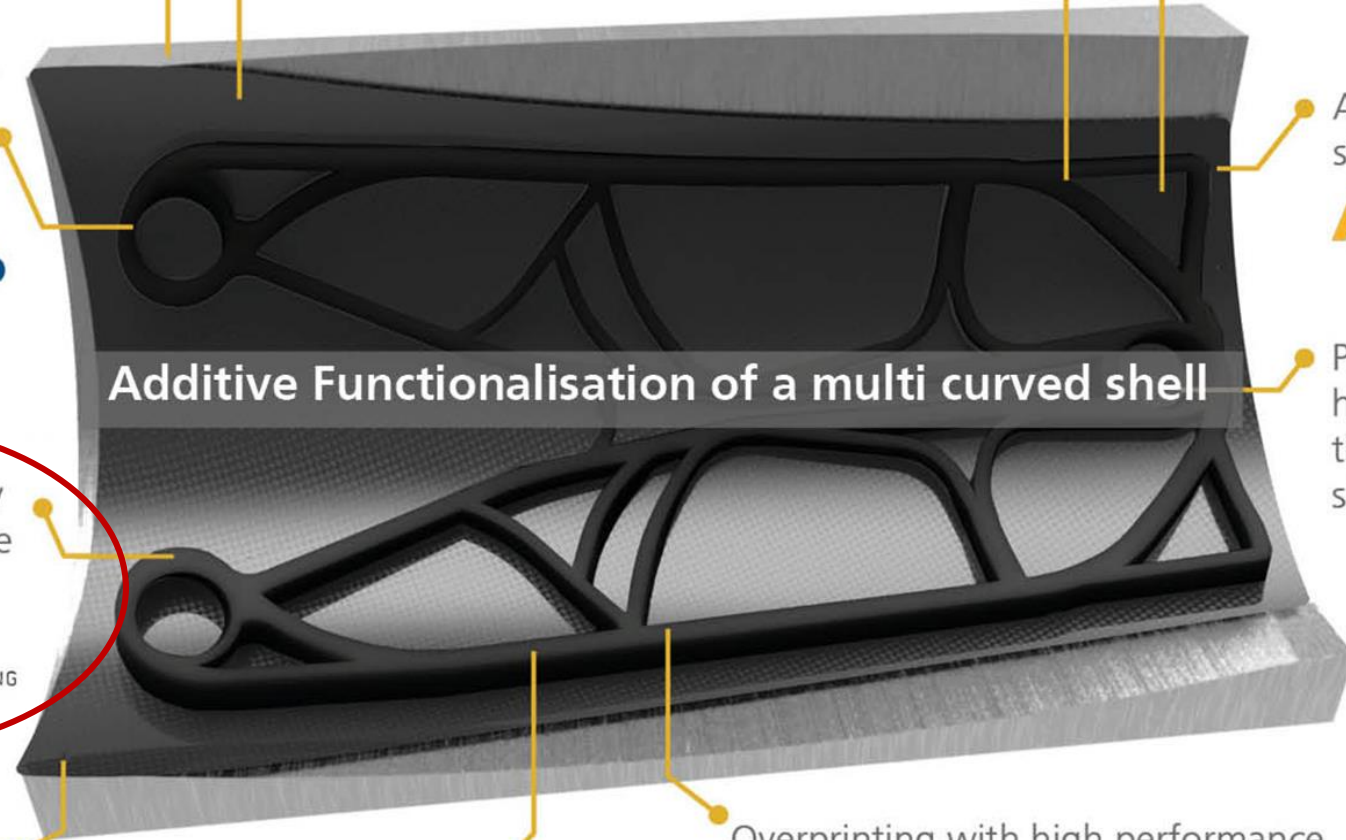
Printing with high performance thermoplastic short FRP by  
**WEBER** additive

Design & topology optimisation of the ribs by  
**PRIME**  
ENGINEERING IDEAS

Printing of supports and fixtures by  
**FIBER THREE**  
MATERIAL

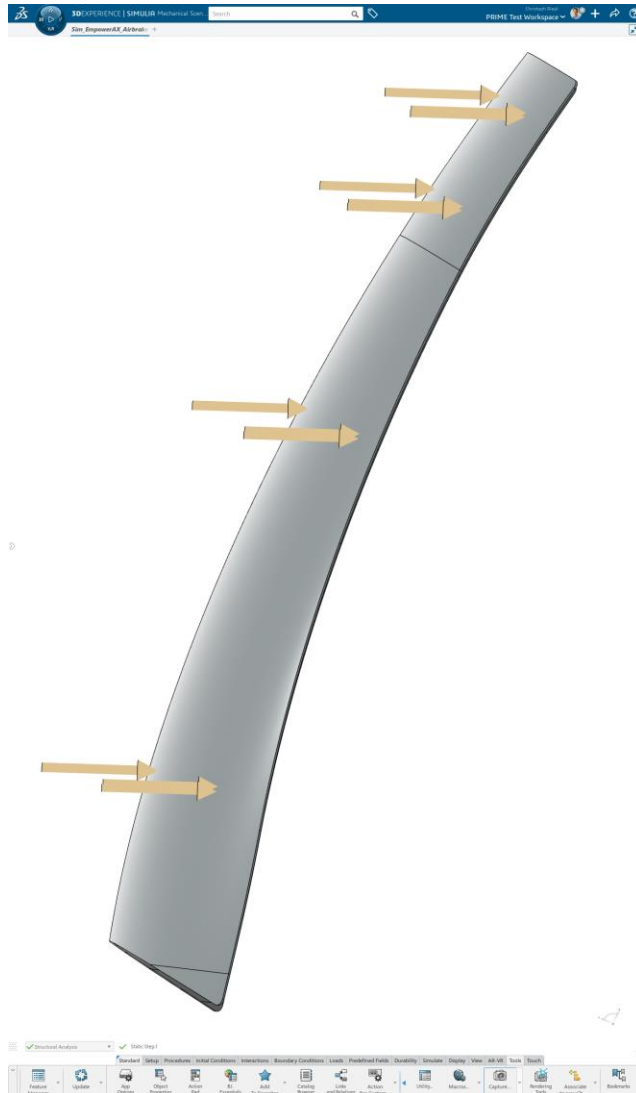
Metrology and NDT by  
**Fill**

Overprinting with high performance thermoplastic short FRP + continuous FRP using CNC robotics by  
**DLR** **AX** **SIEMENS**  
ADDITIVE EXTRUSION



# EmpowerAX Demo Part

## Starting point: Topology-optimised Design by PRIME



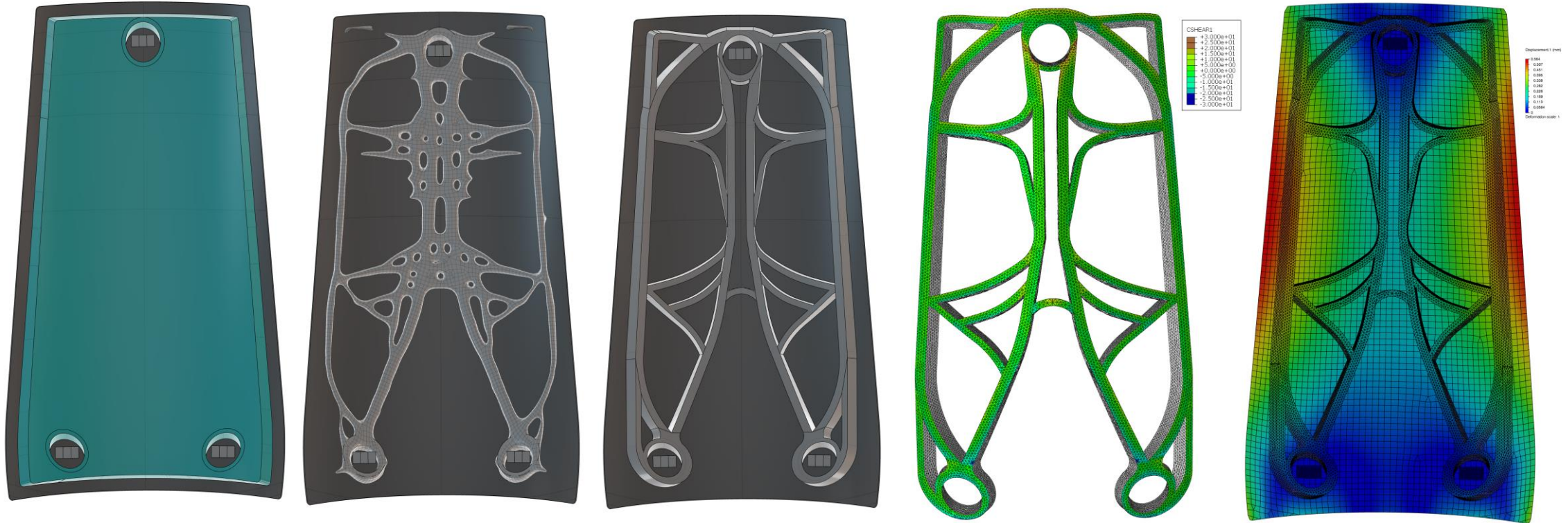
### Basic assumptions for loadcase as design requirements:

- Aeronautical application
- During a landing of 360 km/h
- Aerodynamic drag force combined with simultaneous front and side winds



# EmpowerAX Demo Part

## Starting point: Topology-optimised Design by PRIME



**Topology-optimised design to use material only where it is really needed**

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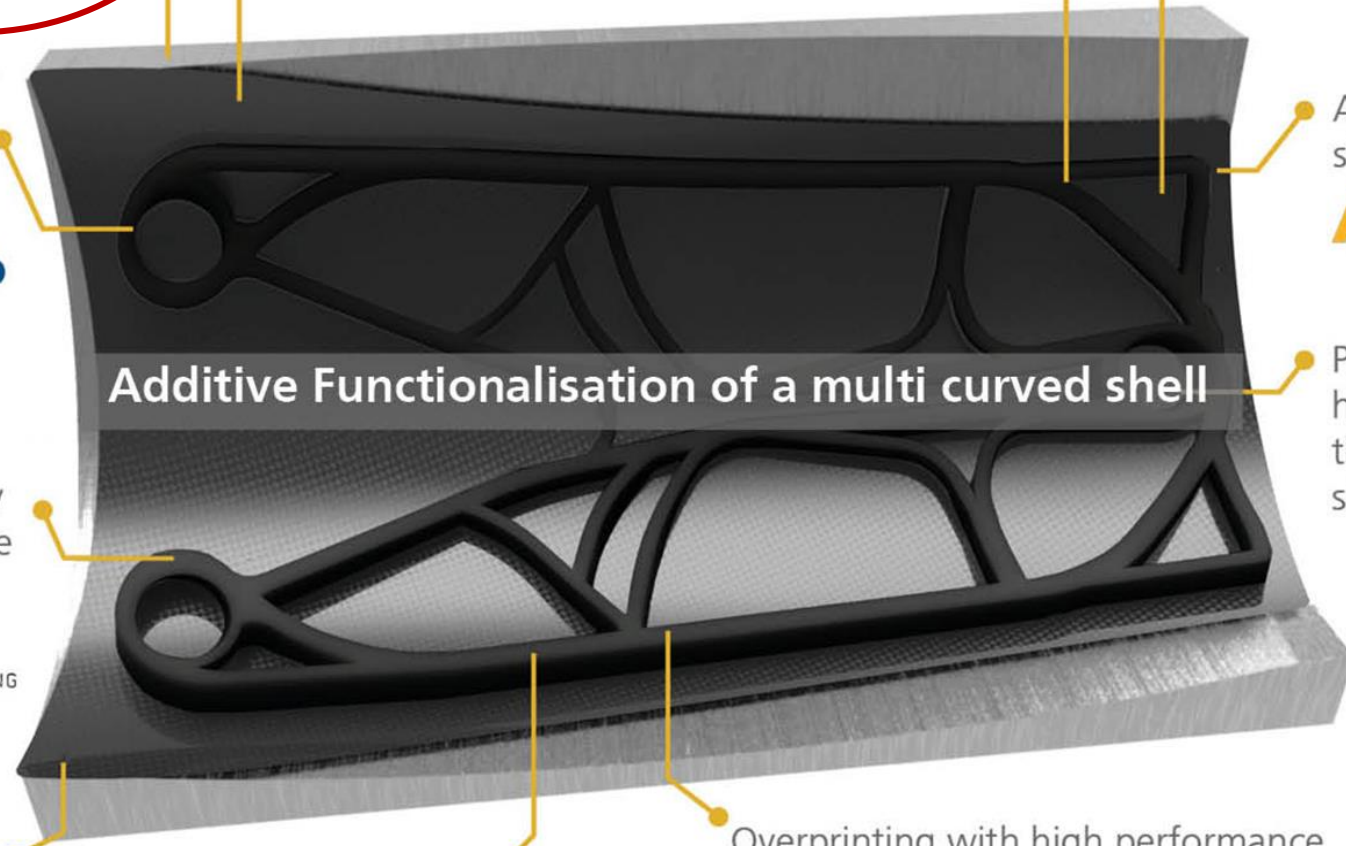
Printing with high performance thermoplastic short FRP by  
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## Additive Functionalisation of a multi curved shell

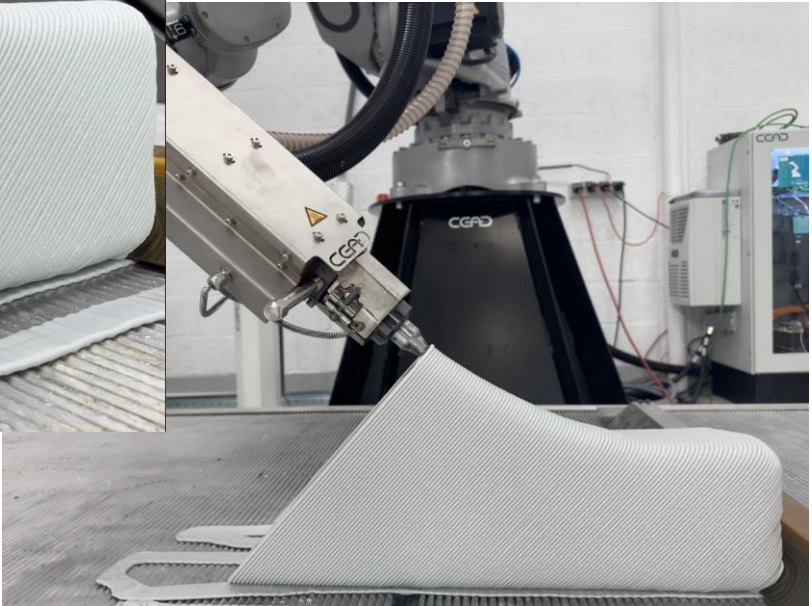
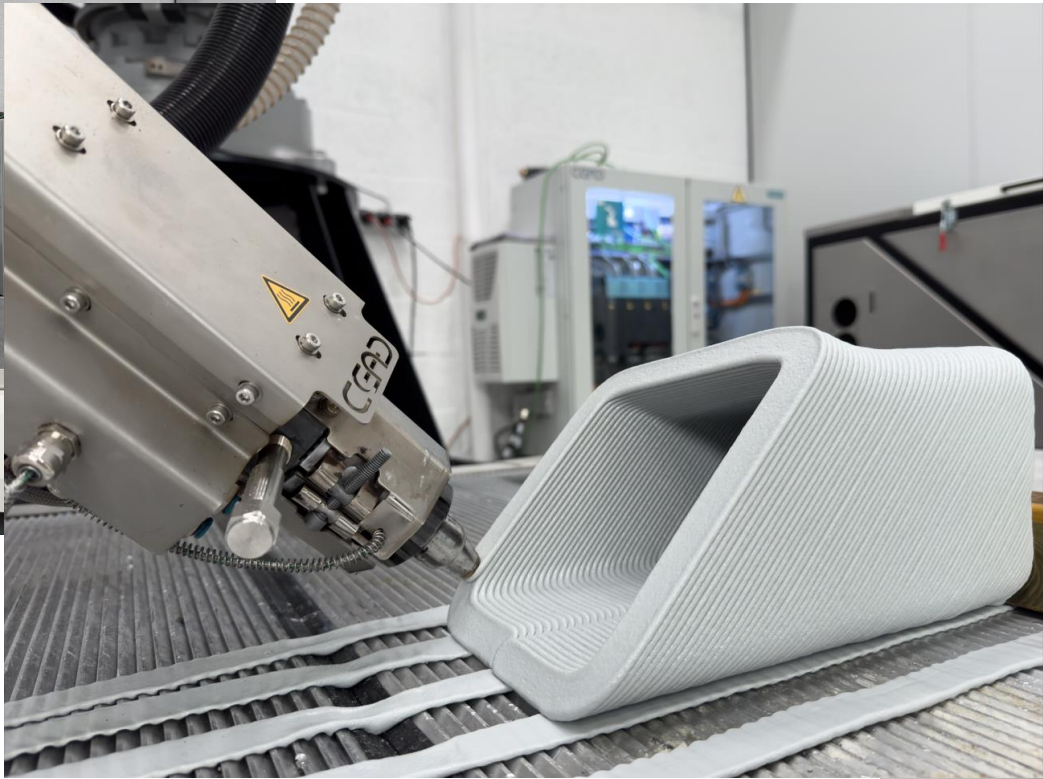
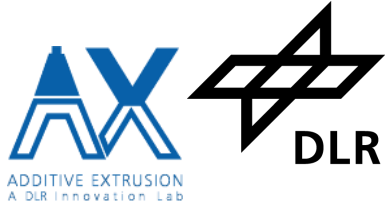
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ADDITIVE EXTRUSION



# EmpowerAX Demo Part Printing of the tooling by CEAD



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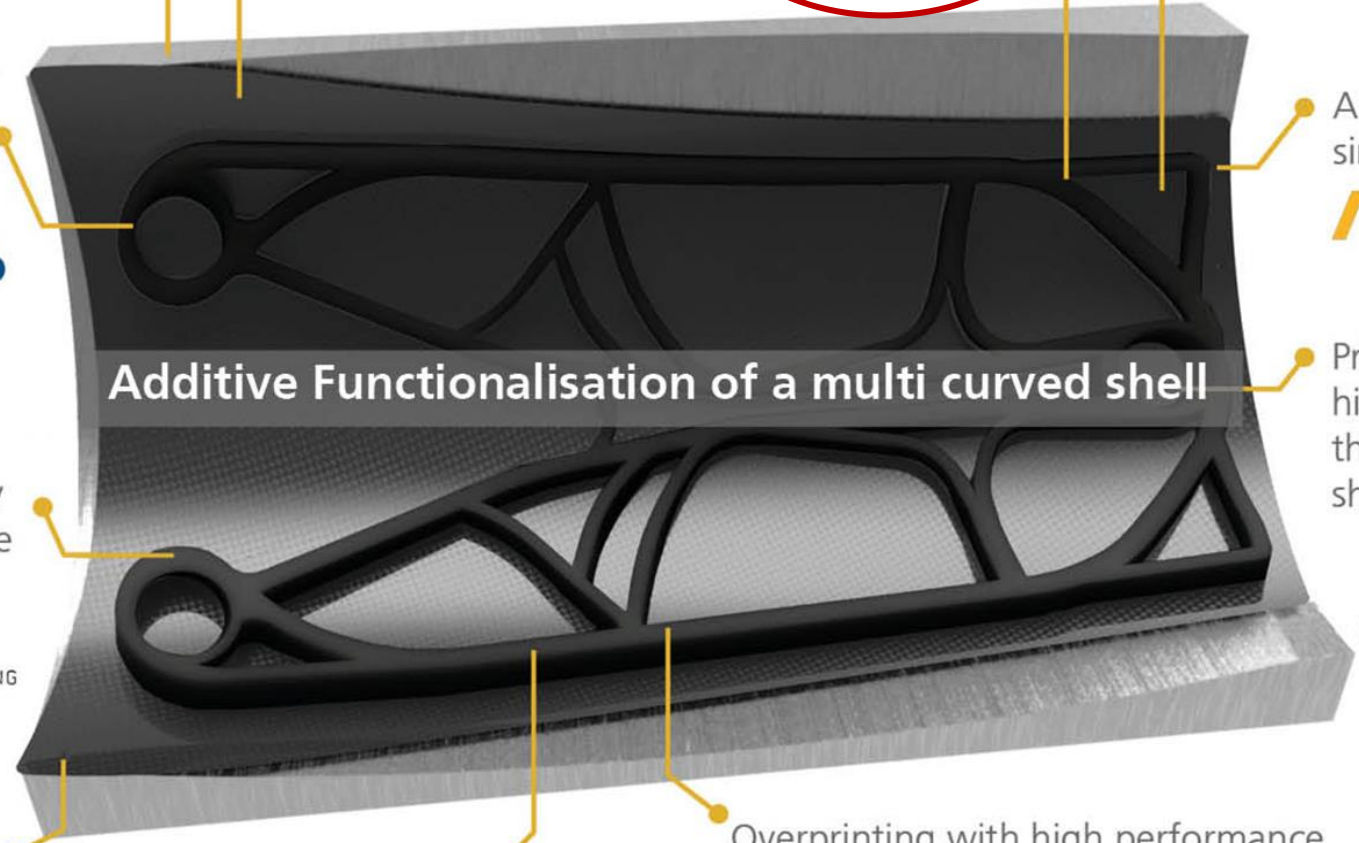
Printing with high performance thermoplastic short FRP by  
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### Additive Functionalisation of a multi curved shell

Printing of supports and fixtures by  
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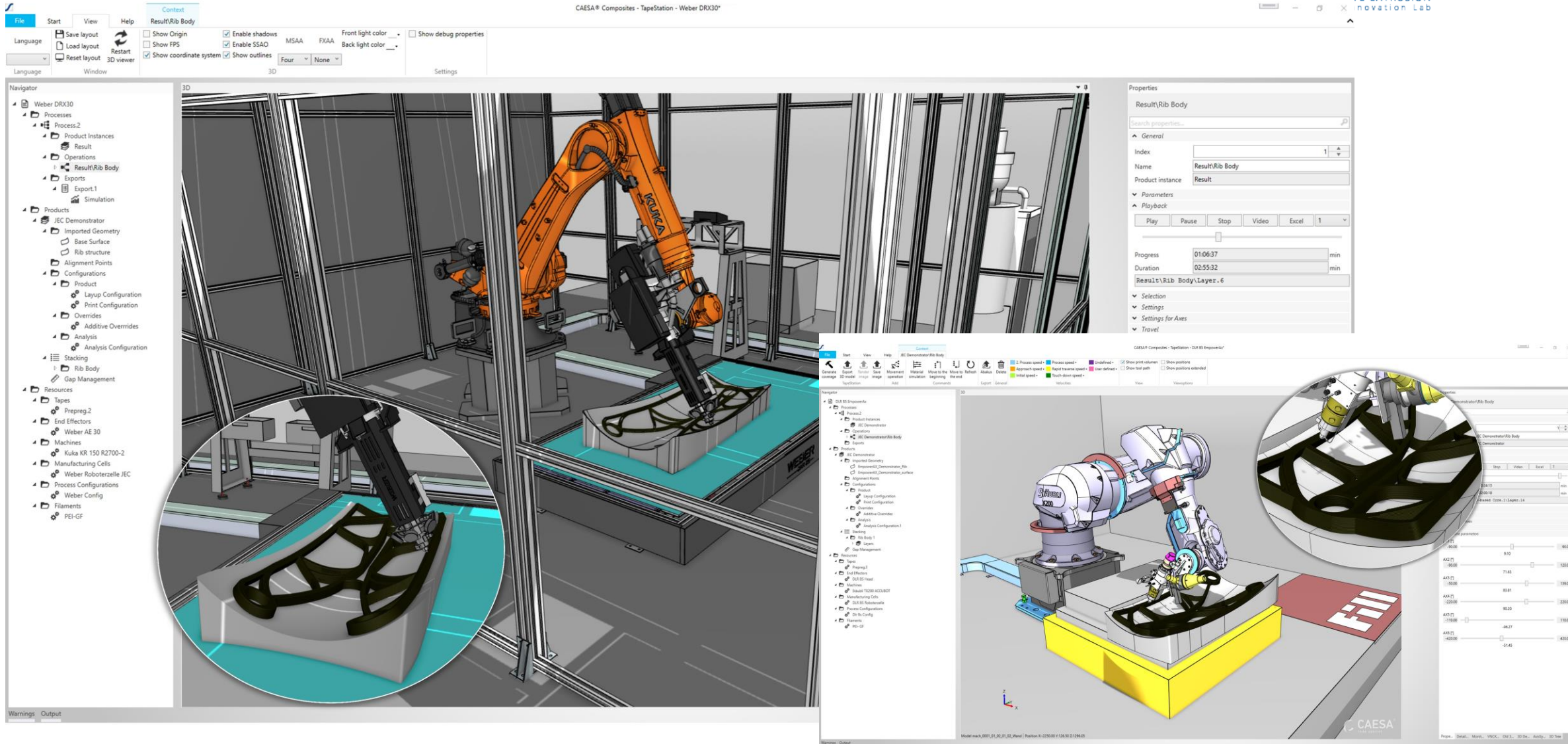
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ADDITIVE EXTRUSION



# EmpowerAX Demo Part

## Path planning for robotic 3D-Printing by SWMS



The screenshot displays the CAESA software interface for simulating a robotic 3D printing process. The main 3D view shows an orange KUKA robot arm positioned over a yellow base, printing a dark-colored part. A circular inset provides a magnified view of the nozzle and the printed part. The interface includes a Navigator panel on the left, a Properties panel on the right, and a top menu bar. The title bar reads "CAESA® Composites - TapeStation - Weber DRX30".

**Navigator Panel (Left):**

- Weber DRX30
  - Processes
    - Process.2
      - Product Instances
        - Result
          - Operations
            - Result/Rib Body
          - Exports
            - Export.1
              - Simulation
      - Products
        - JEC Demonstrator
          - Imported Geometry
            - Base Surface
            - Rib structure
            - Alignment Points
            - Configurations
              - Product
                - Layup Configuration
                - Print Configuration
              - Overrides
              - Additive Overrides
              - Analysis
                - Analysis Configuration
            - Stacking
              - Rib Body
              - Gap Management
          - Resources
            - Tapes
              - Prepreg.2
              - End Effectors
                - Weber AE 30
              - Machines
                - Kuka KR 150 R2700-2
                - Manufacturing Cells
                  - Weber Roboterzelle JEC
                  - Process Configurations
                    - Weber Config
                  - Filaments
                    - PEI-GF

**Properties Panel (Right):**

Result/Rib Body

General

- Index: 1
- Name: Result/Rib Body
- Product instance: Result

Parameters

Playback

Play Pause Stop Video Excel 1

Progress: 01:06:37 min

Duration: 02:55:32 min

Result/Rib Body.Layer.6

Selection

Settings

Settings for Axes

Travel



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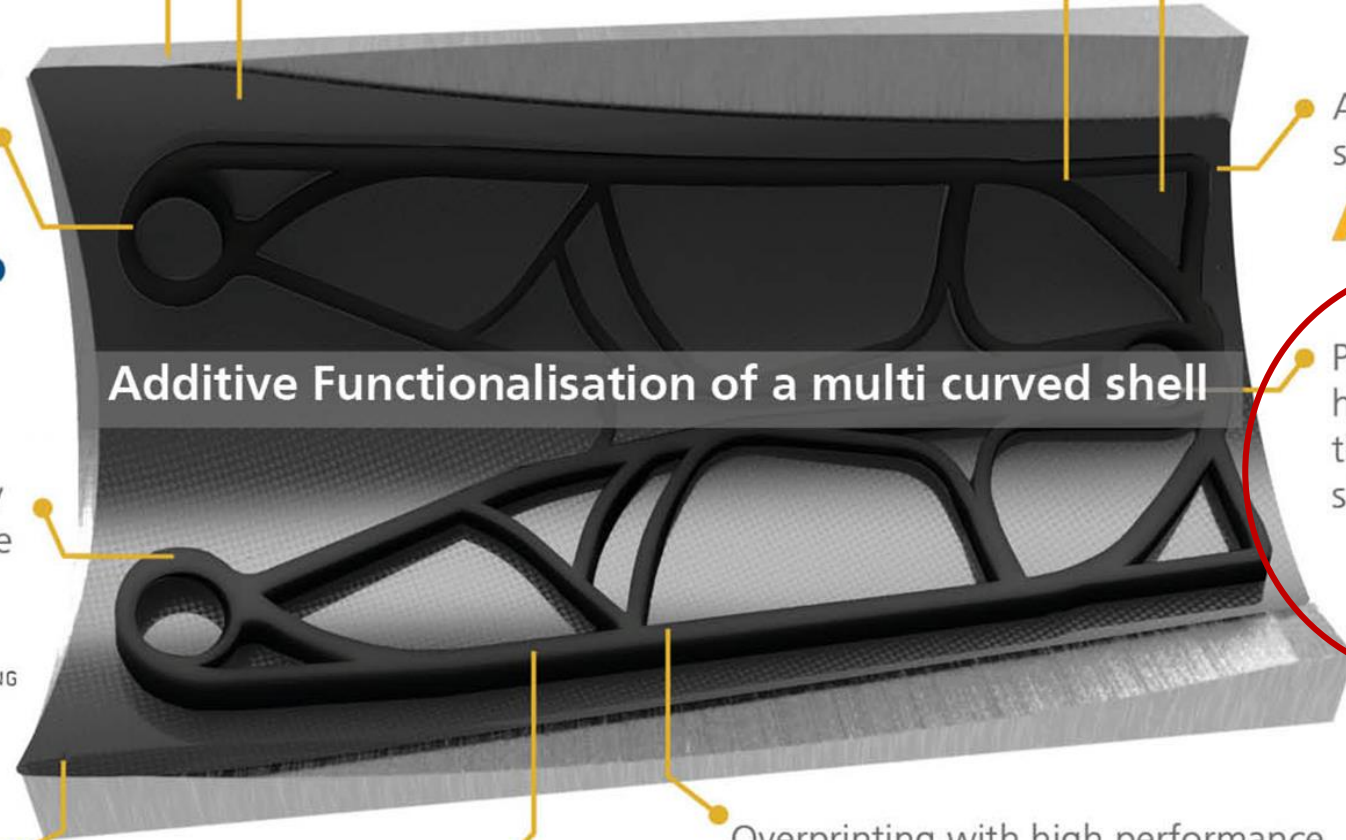
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WEBER additive

## Additive Functionalisation of a multi curved shell

Printing of supports and fixtures by  
**FIBER THREE**  
MATERIAL

Metrology and NDT by  
**Fill**

Overprinting with high performance thermoplastic short FRP + continuous FRP using CNC robotics by  
**DLR** **AX** **SIEMENS**  
ADDITIVE EXTRUSION



# EmpowerAX Demo Part Printing of the stiffening ribs by WEBER



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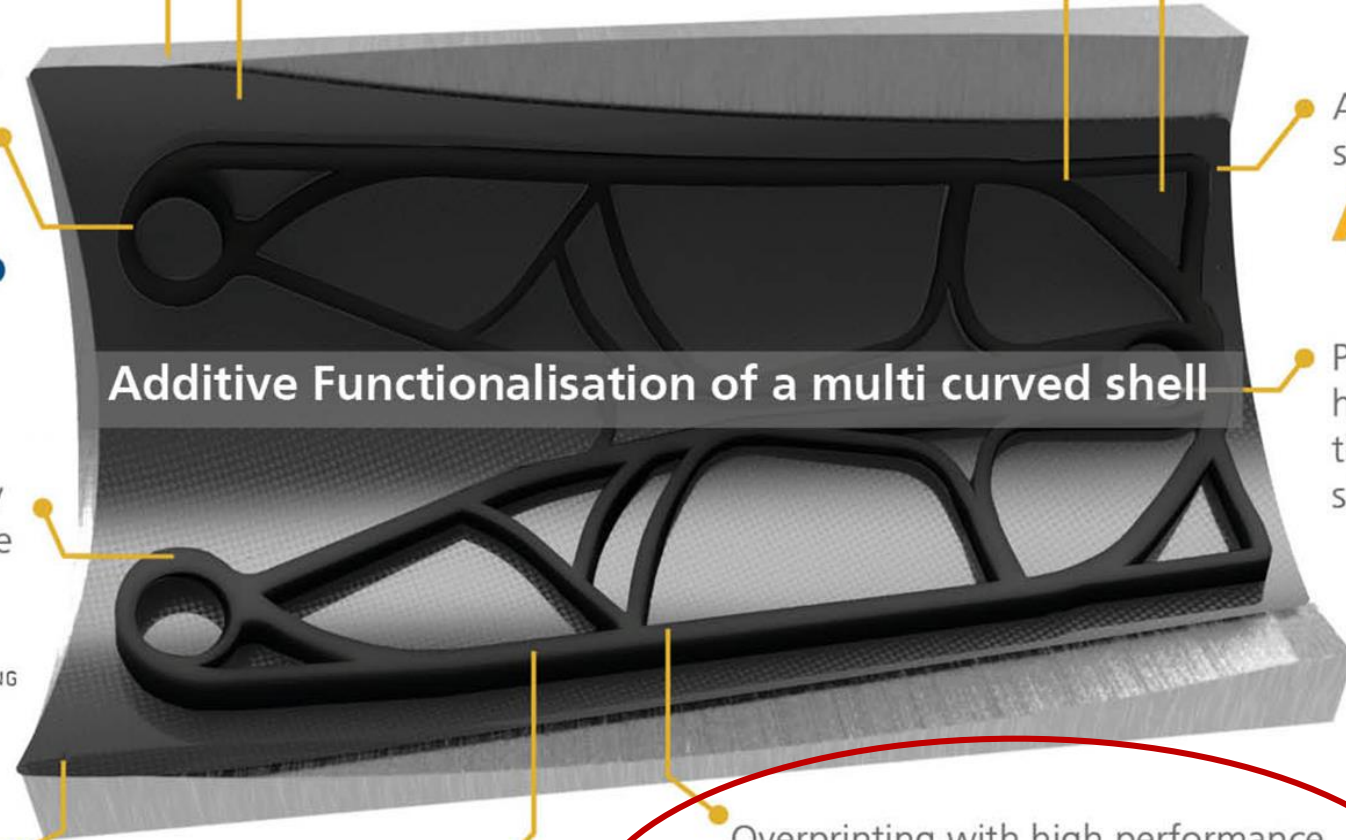
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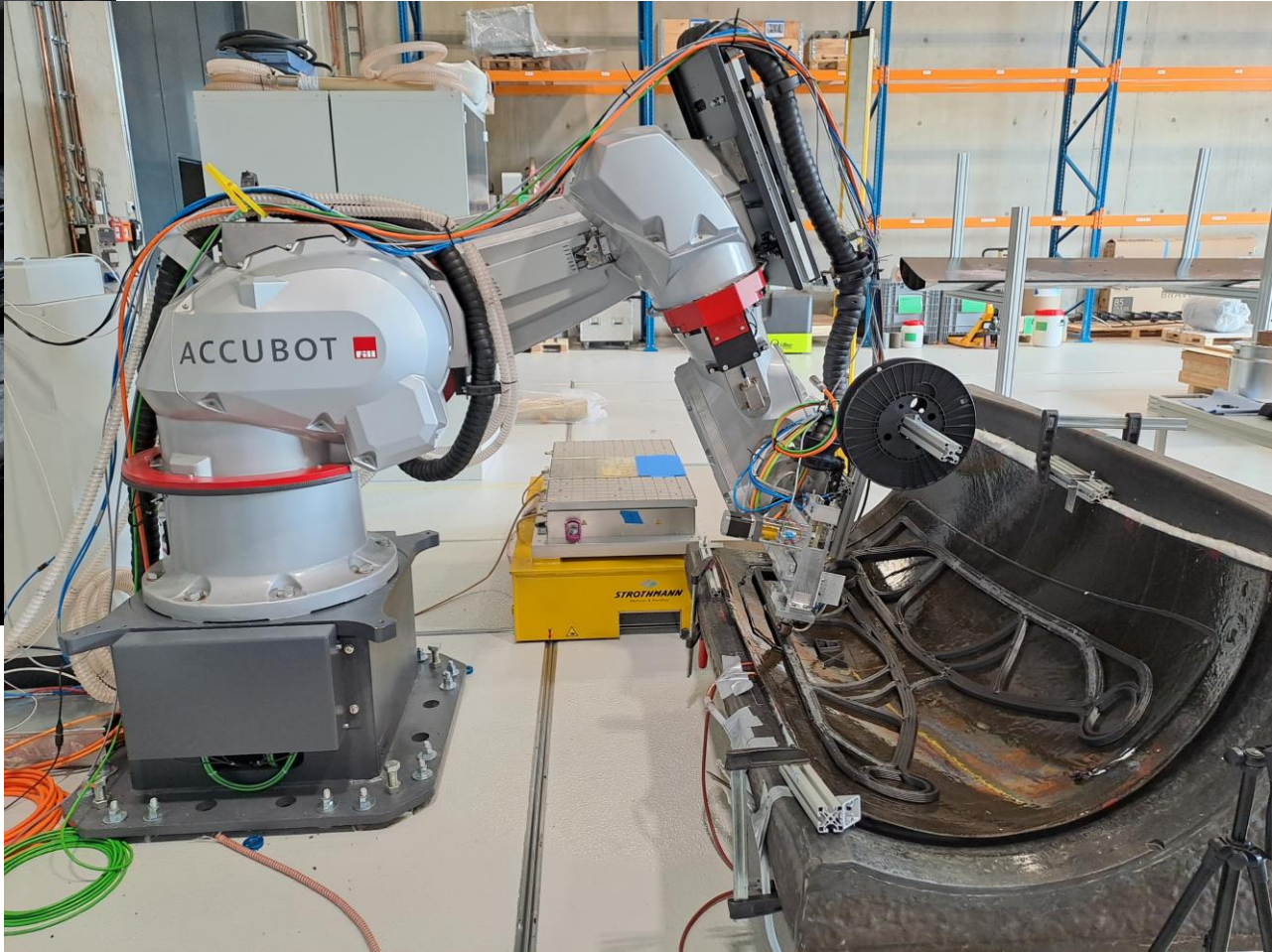
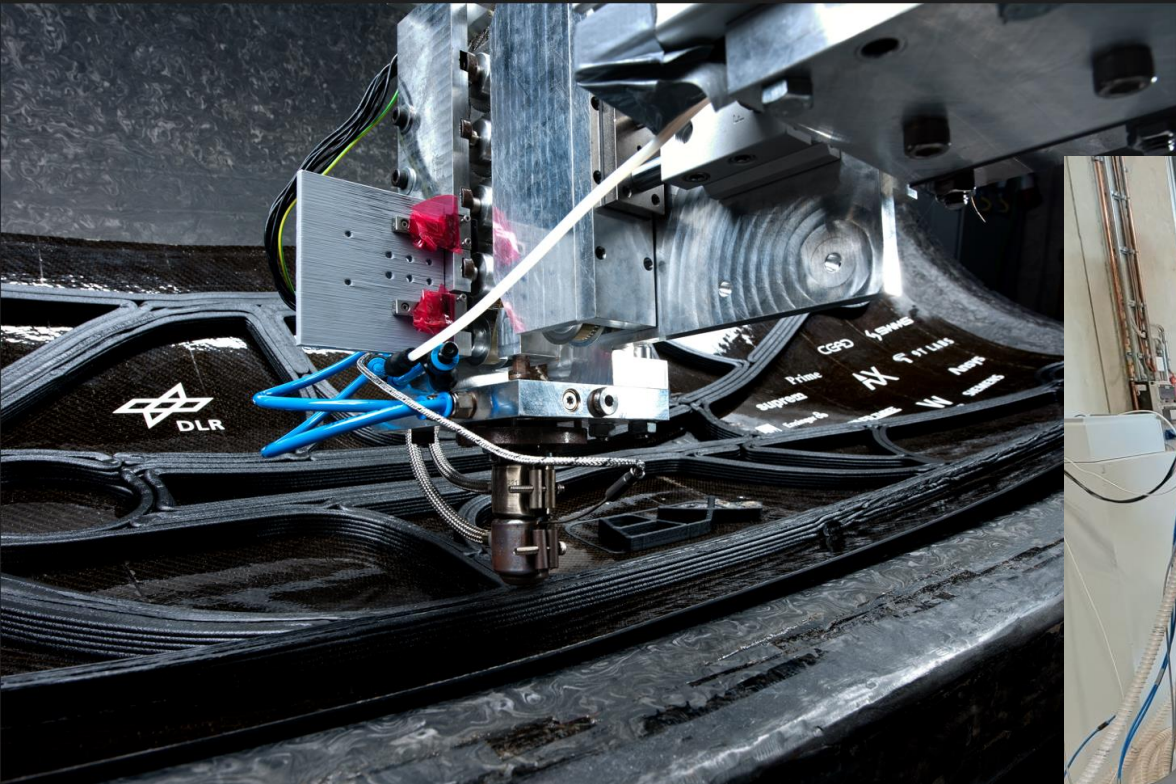
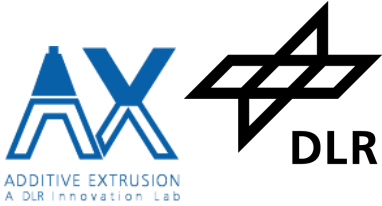
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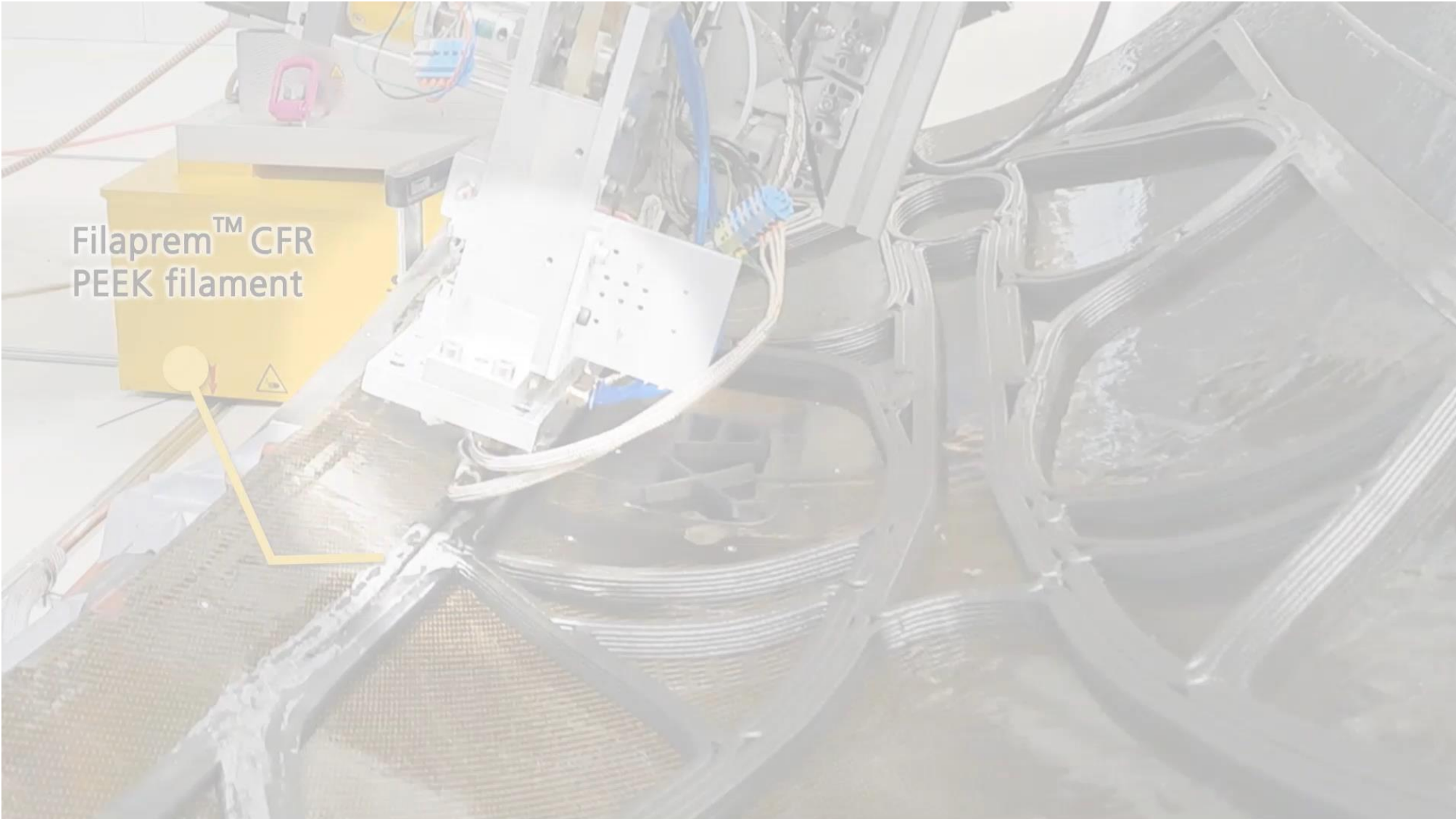
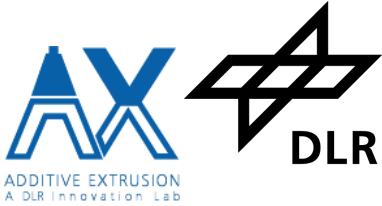
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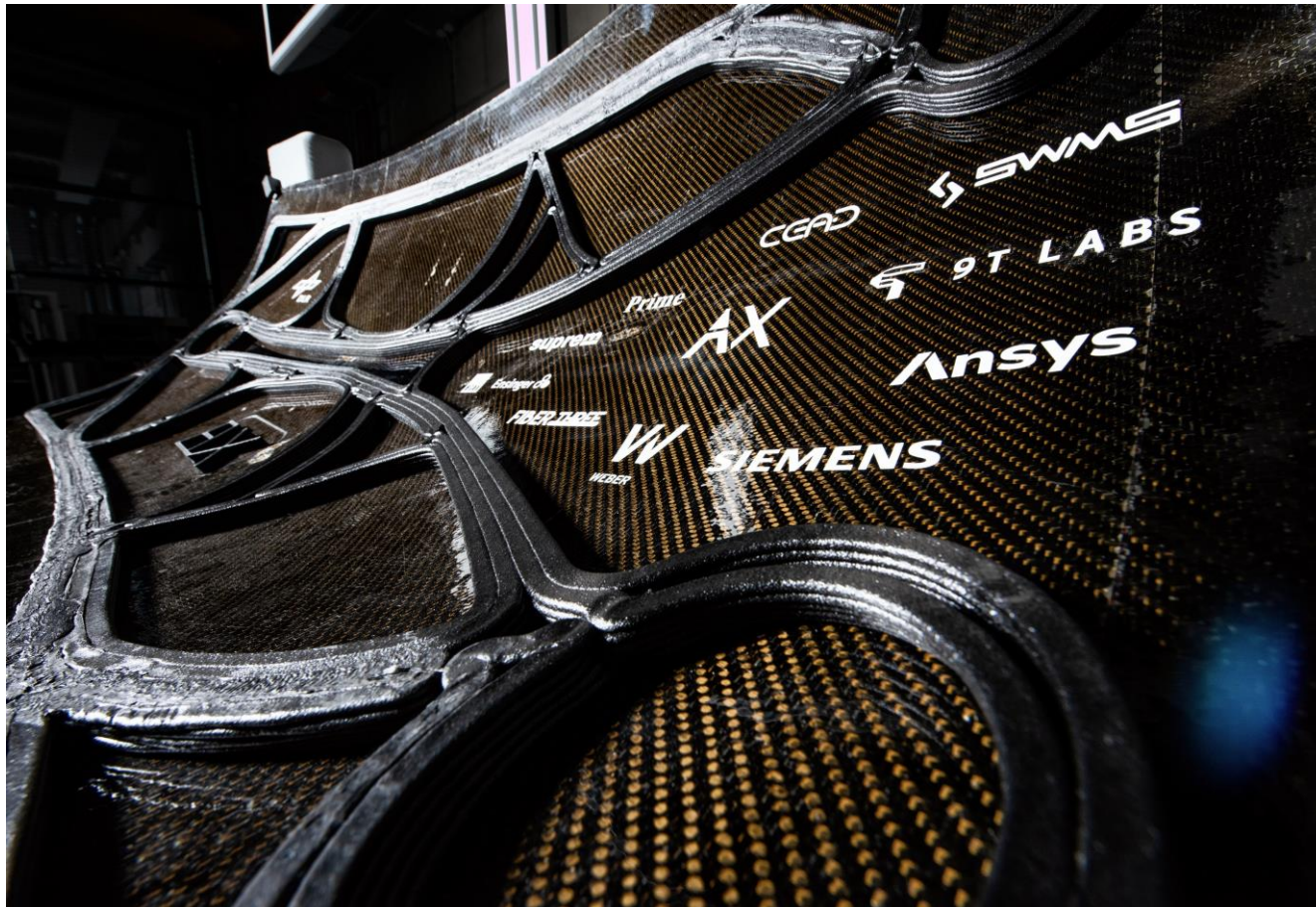
# EmpowerAX Demo Part Overprinting by DLR / EmpowerAX



# EmpowerAX Demo Part Overprinting by DLR / EmpowerAX



# EmpowerAX Demo Part Additive Functionalisation – Summary



- Additive Functionalisation for cost-efficient manufacturing of composites parts
- Overprinting of a multi-curved shell with short and endless fibre-reinforced materials
- Combination of thermoset and high performance thermoplastic
- Demonstration of an industrially available process chain

# EmpowerAX Demo Part Additive Functionalisation – a award winning concept



**09/2023:**

**Winner of Innovation Award Lower Saxony 2023**  
Category: Cooperation



**02/2024:**

**Winner of JEC Innovation Award 2024**  
Category: Aerospace Process



# WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXPERIENCE FIBRE-REINFORCED 3D PRINTING LIVE?



**EmpowerAX  
Science Day 2024**



**LinkedIn Event**



**Thank you for your attention!**



**Questions?**

# Possibilities of further contact



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