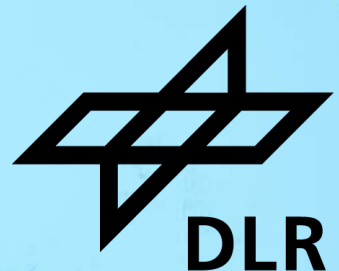


SMART AND ROBUST COMPOSITE SCARF REPAIR USING VISUAL ASSISTANCE, CRACK ARRESTING AND CRACK DETECTION SYSTEMS

Jens Kosmann, Dr. Martin J. Schollerer

NATO STO AVT-412 Research Workshop (RWS), Bordeaux, France 20-21 May 2026

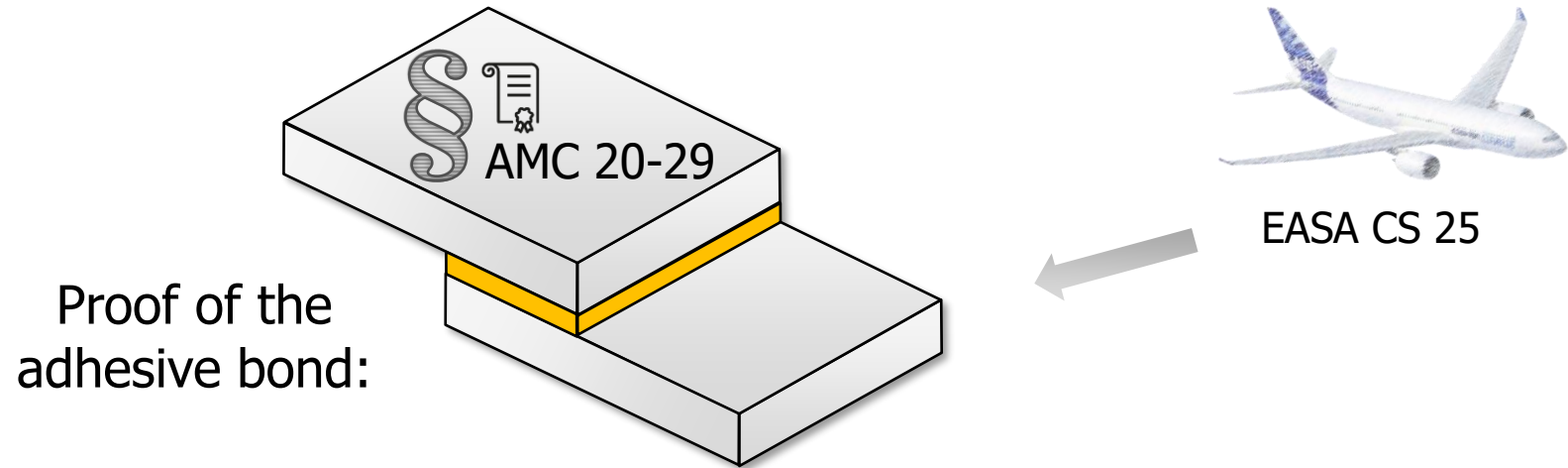


Outline

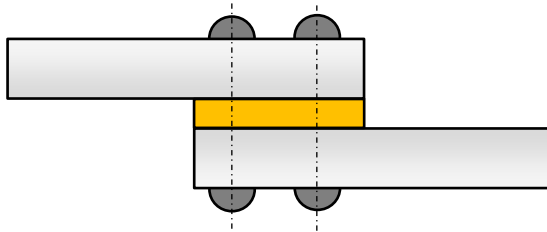
- Introduction
- Smart bondline using FOSS and TPU
- Visual Assisted Scarf Repair
- Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair
 - Using VAS
 - Crack stopping
 - And SHM with FOSS
- Summary



Certification requirements for structural adhesive bonds in aviation

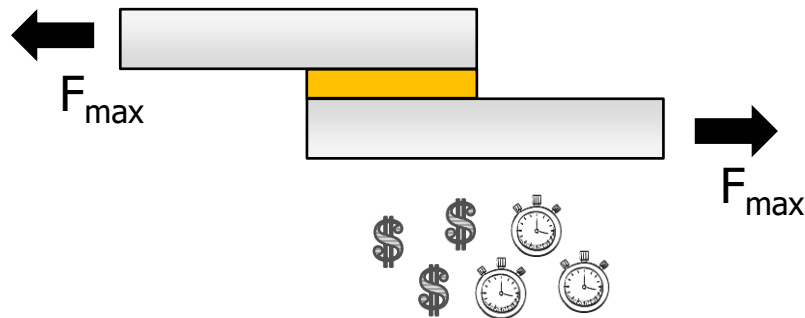


(i) Additional design elements

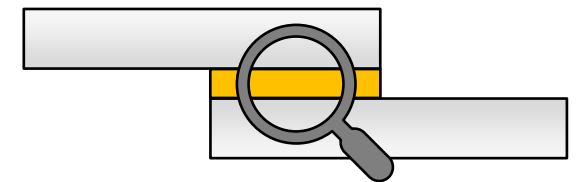


Disadvantage: 

(ii) Load tests



(iii) Inspection

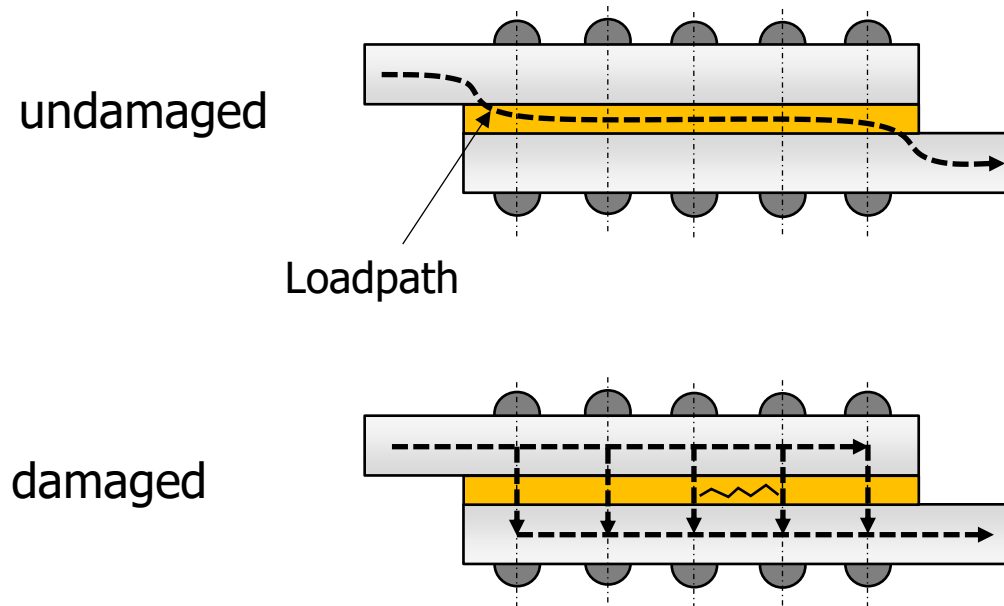


Does not exist.

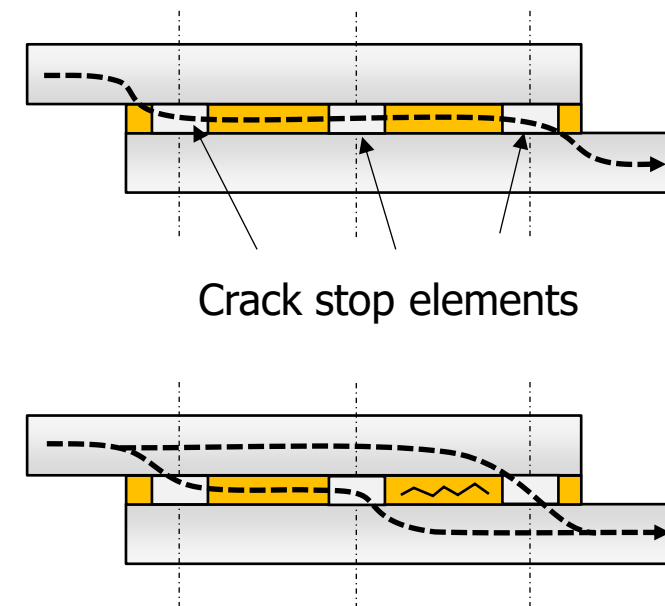
CS = Certification Specification
AMC = Acceptable Means of Compliance

From the bolted to the bonded joint

Fail Safe Design

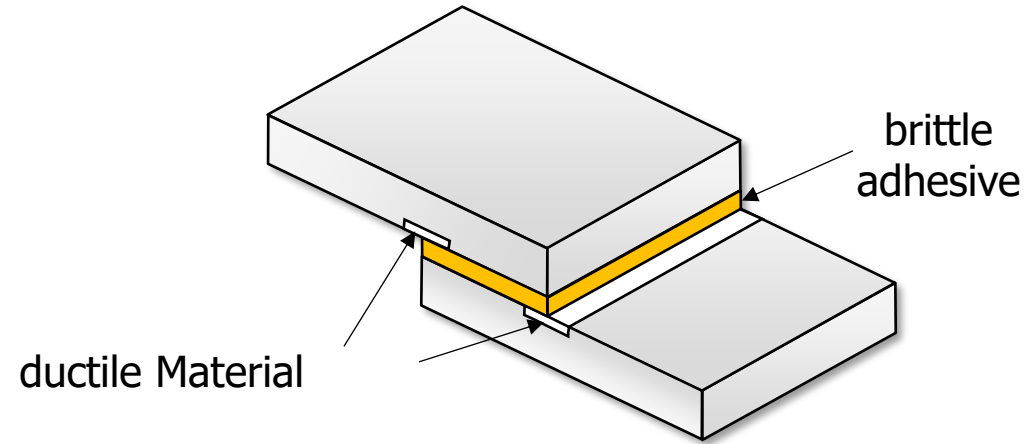


Maximum Disbond Design



Aim: Robust pure adhesive bond with crack-stop effect!

Local Surface Toughening (ST) - Concept



Increase in joint strength

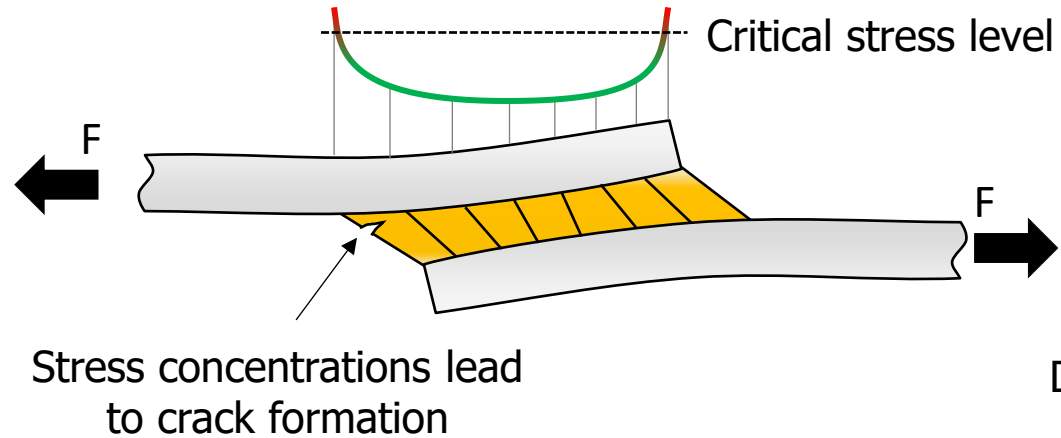
The targeted arrangement of the local surface modification in the bond improves the load distribution and thus increases the bond strength.

Crack stop

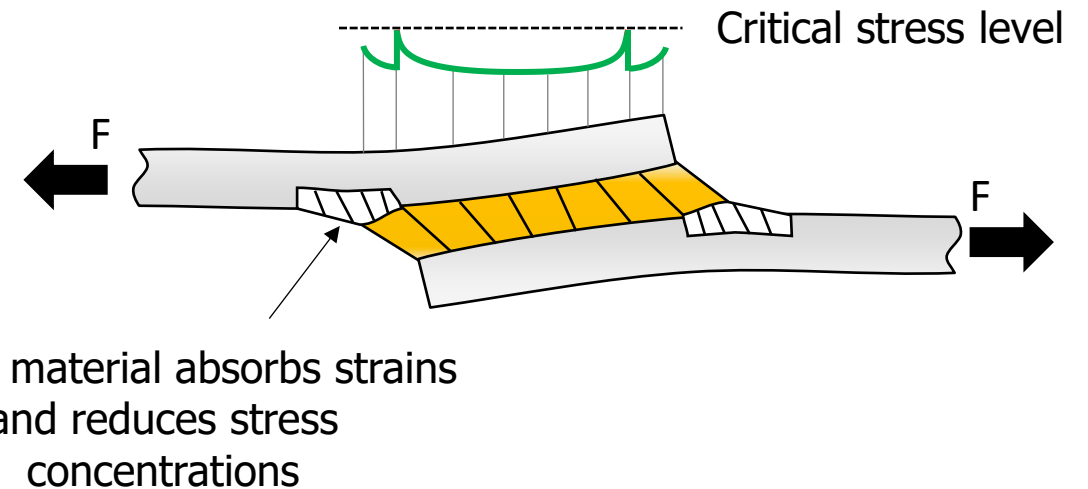
Crack growth in the bonded joint is stopped by means of localized surface toughening and the resulting reduction in stress concentrations.

Local Surface Toughening - How it works

Reference

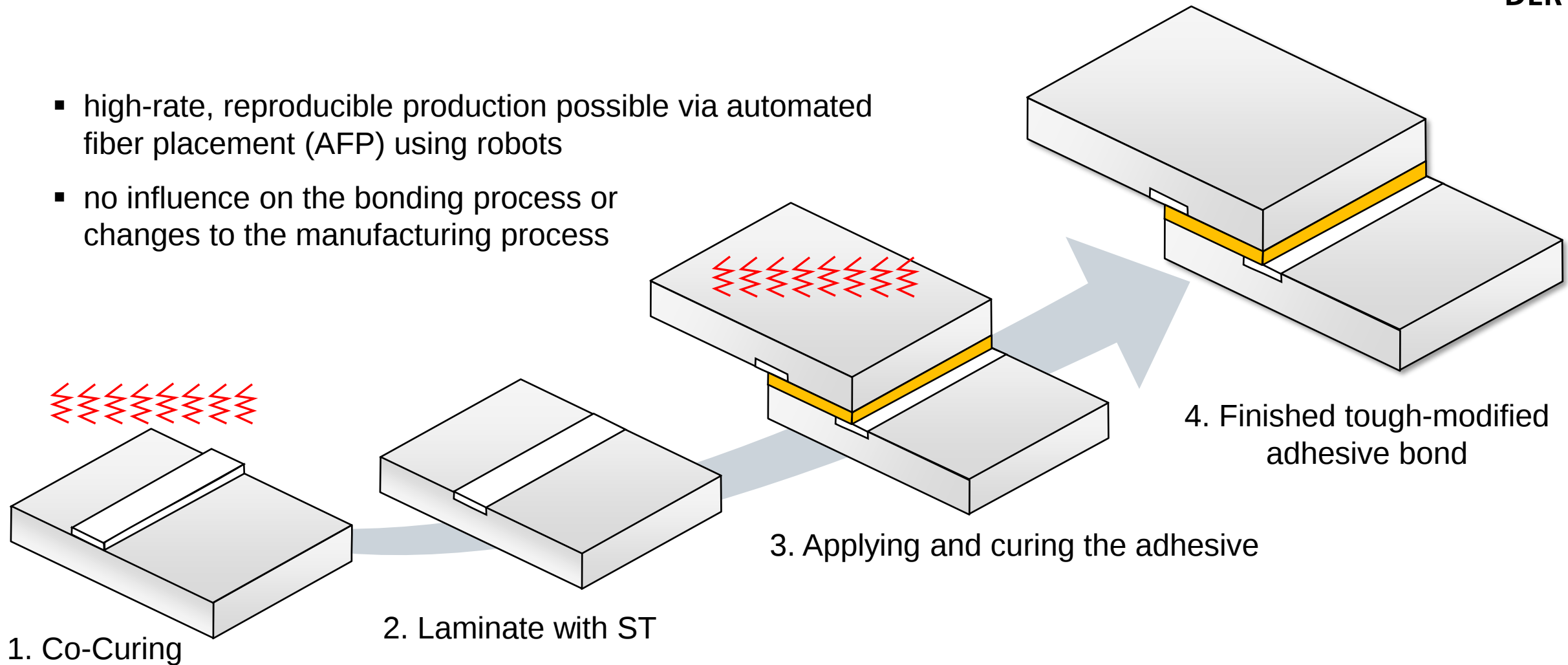


ST

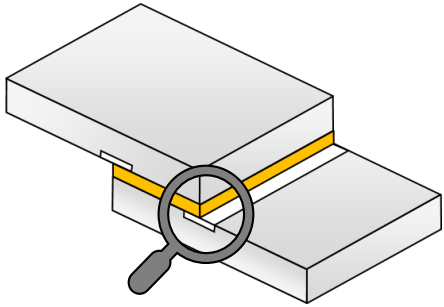


Manufacturing using the prepreg process as an example

- high-rate, reproducible production possible via automated fiber placement (AFP) using robots
- no influence on the bonding process or changes to the manufacturing process



Crosssection and materials



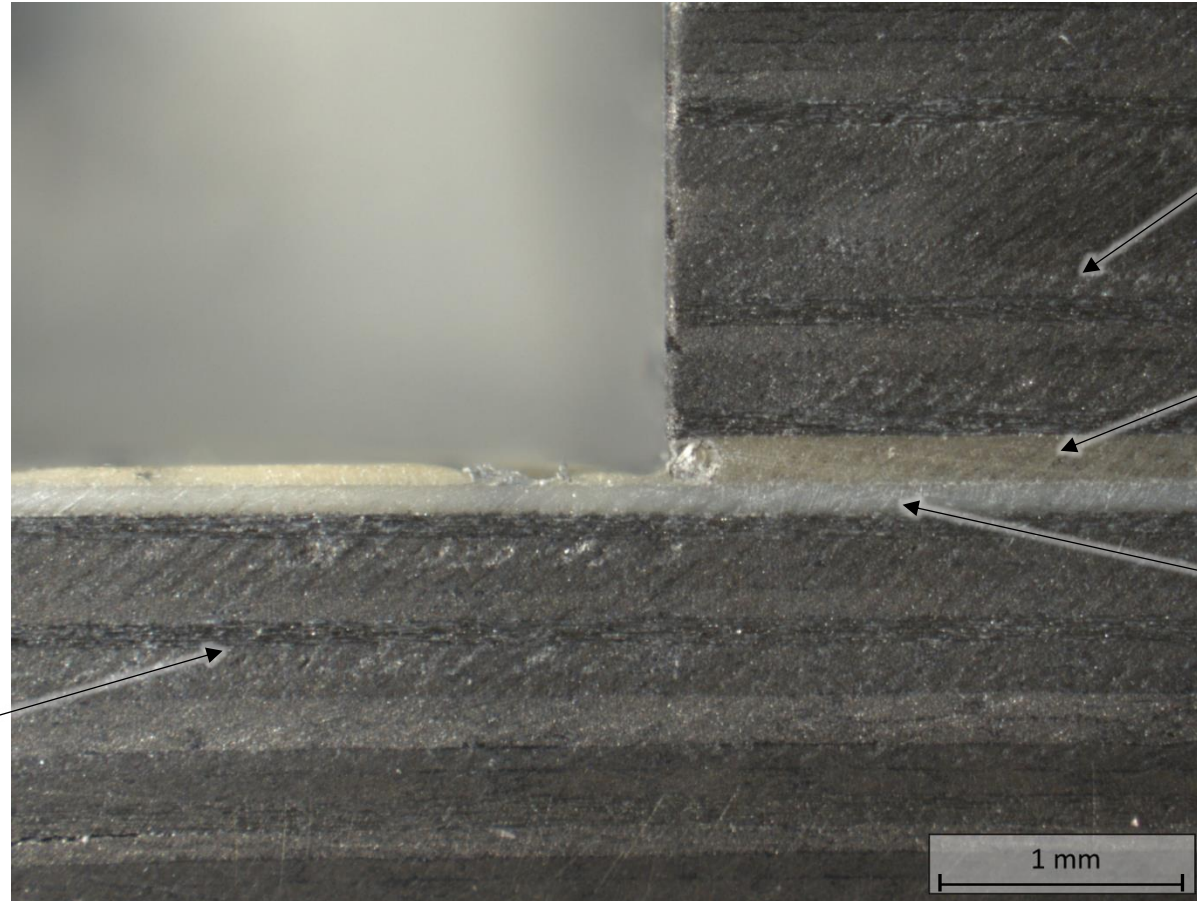
Young's modulus:

$$E_{8552 \text{ IM7}} = 60.600 \text{ MPa}$$

$$E_{\text{EA9695}} = 2.577 \text{ MPa}$$

$$E_{\text{PVDF}} = 1.716 \text{ MPa}$$

Adherend 1
8552 IM7



Adherend 2
8552 IM7

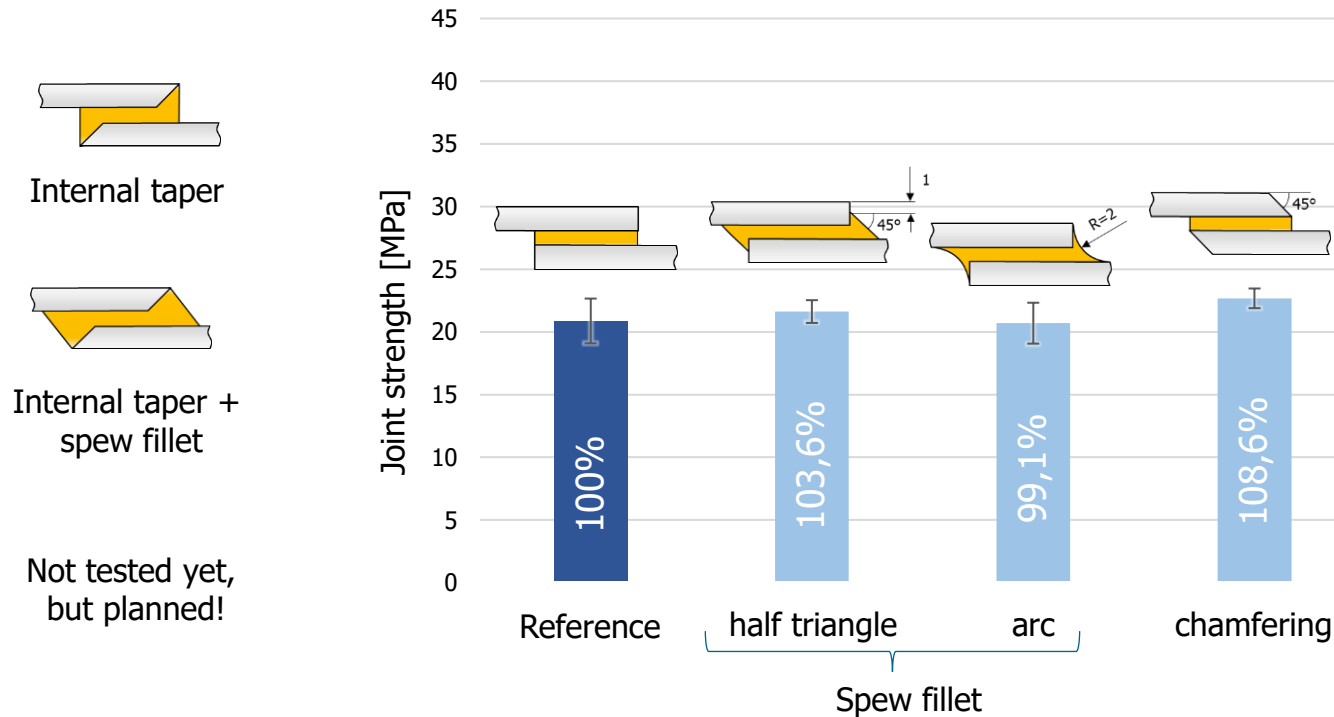
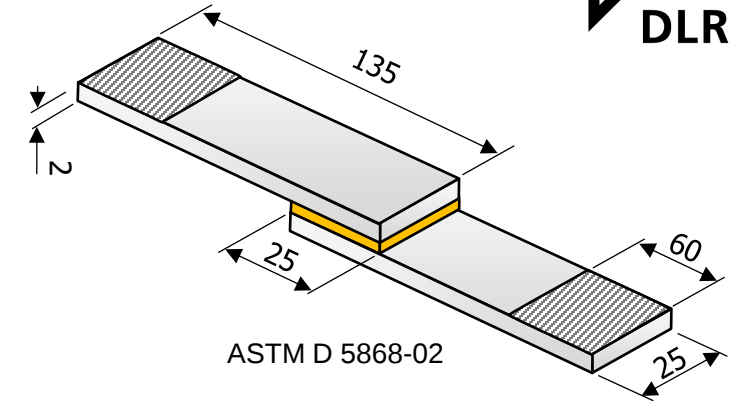
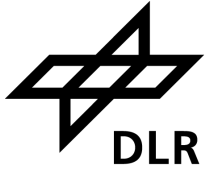
Film adhesive
EA9695 NW
 $t_{\text{KI}} \sim 0,12 \text{ mm}$

ST-Material
PVDF
 $t_{\text{ST}} \sim 0,1 \text{ mm}$

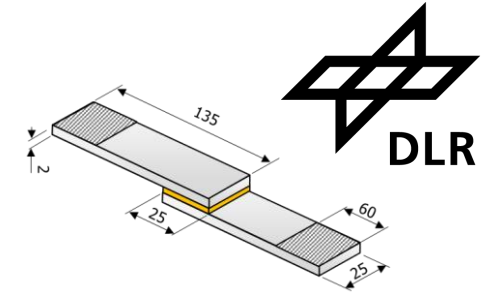
1 mm

Strength increase under quasi-static load

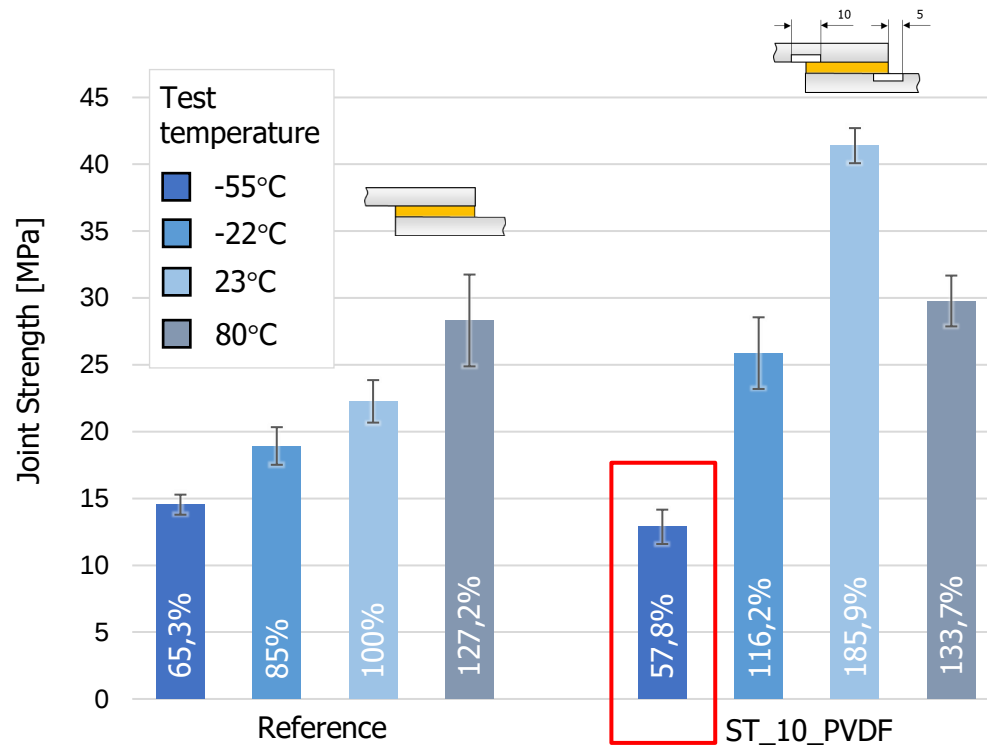
- strength-enhancing methods from literature without much effect in our tested material combination
- increase in strength due to ST by 84%



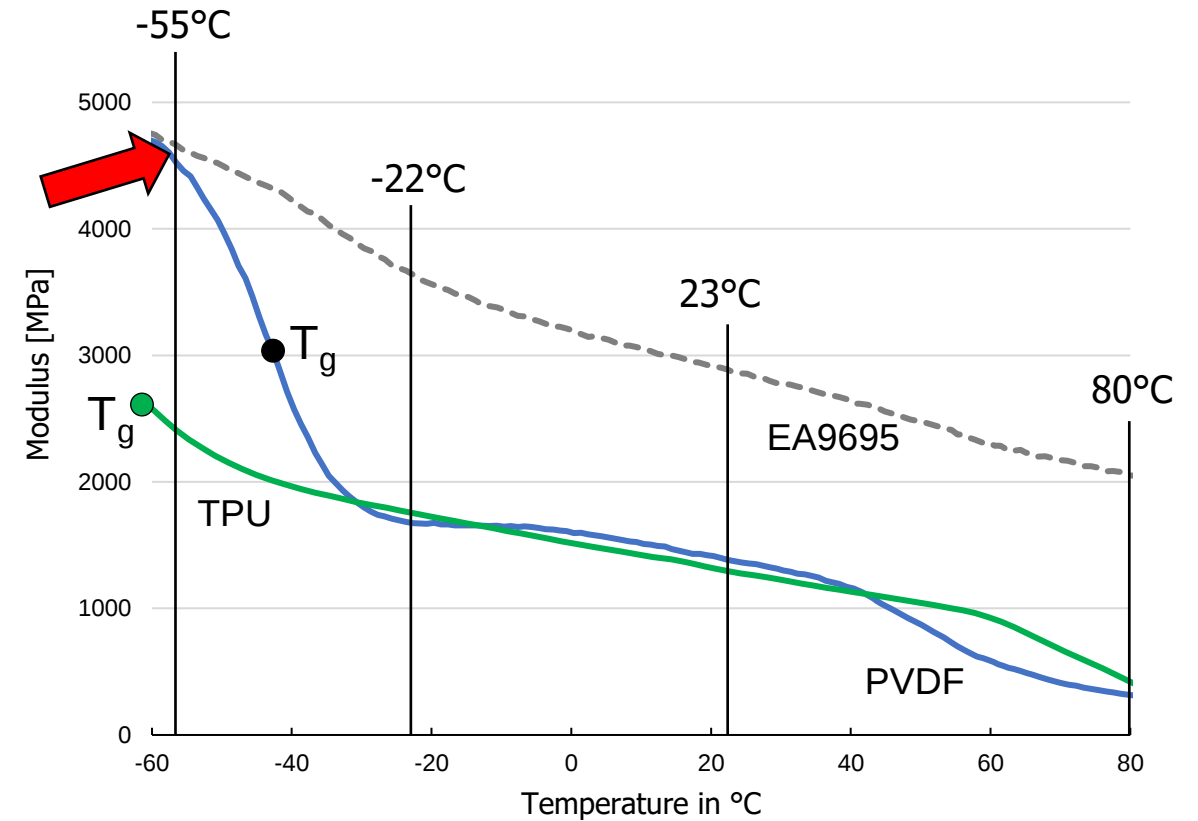
Problem with PVDF



SLS tests PVDF



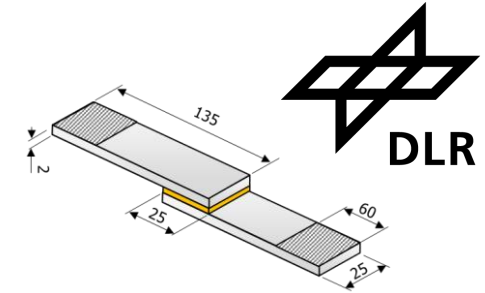
DMA



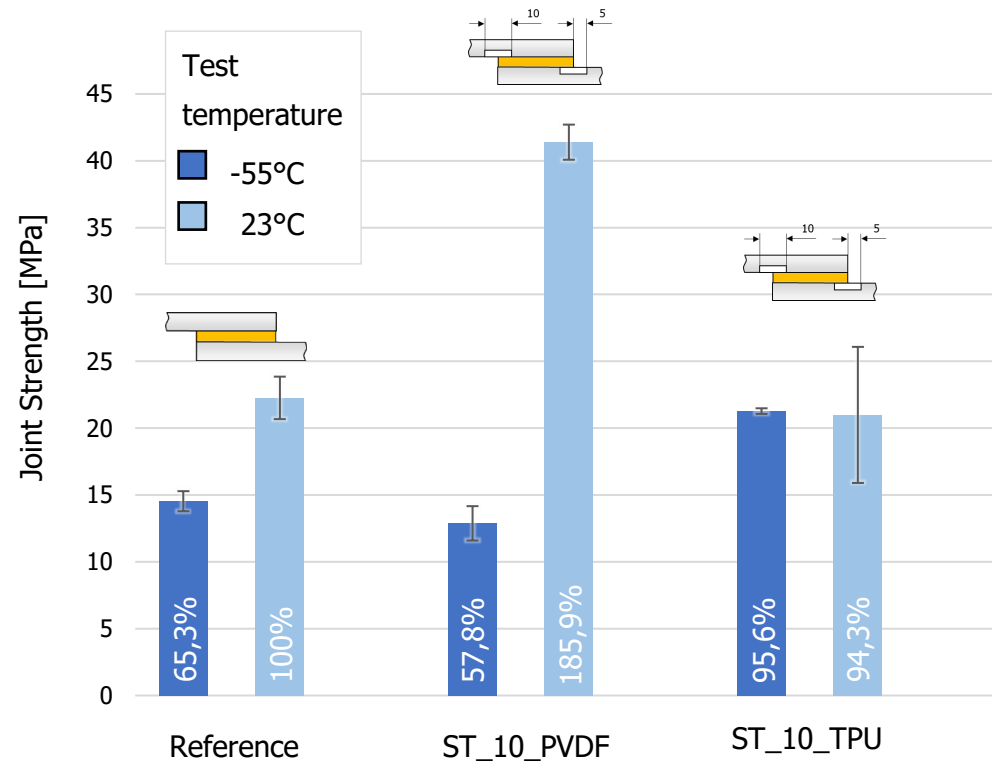
→TPU for next trials!

PVDF: Nowoflon Copo FL2608, Nowofol
TPU: Elastollan 1165D13U, BASF

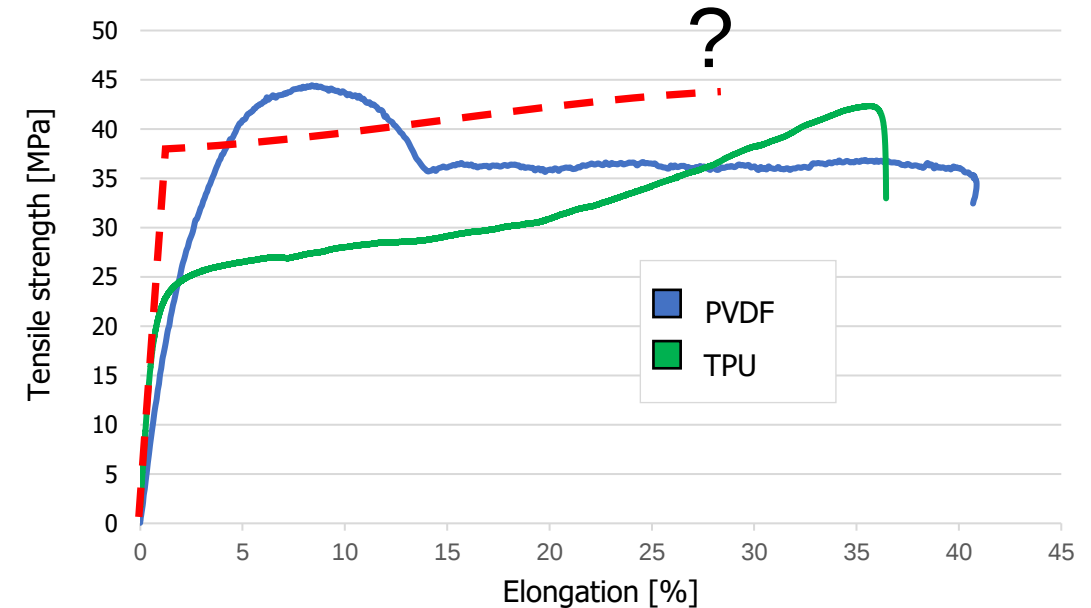
Comparison of PVDF and TPU - SLS



SLS tests PVDF and TPU



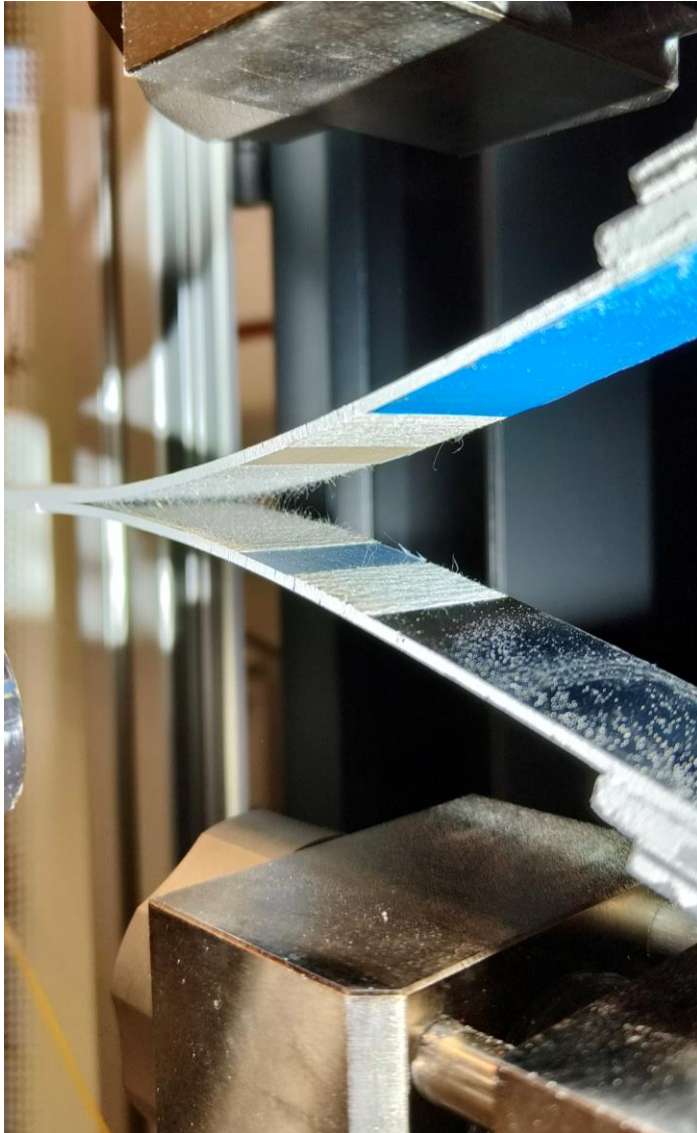
Tension test



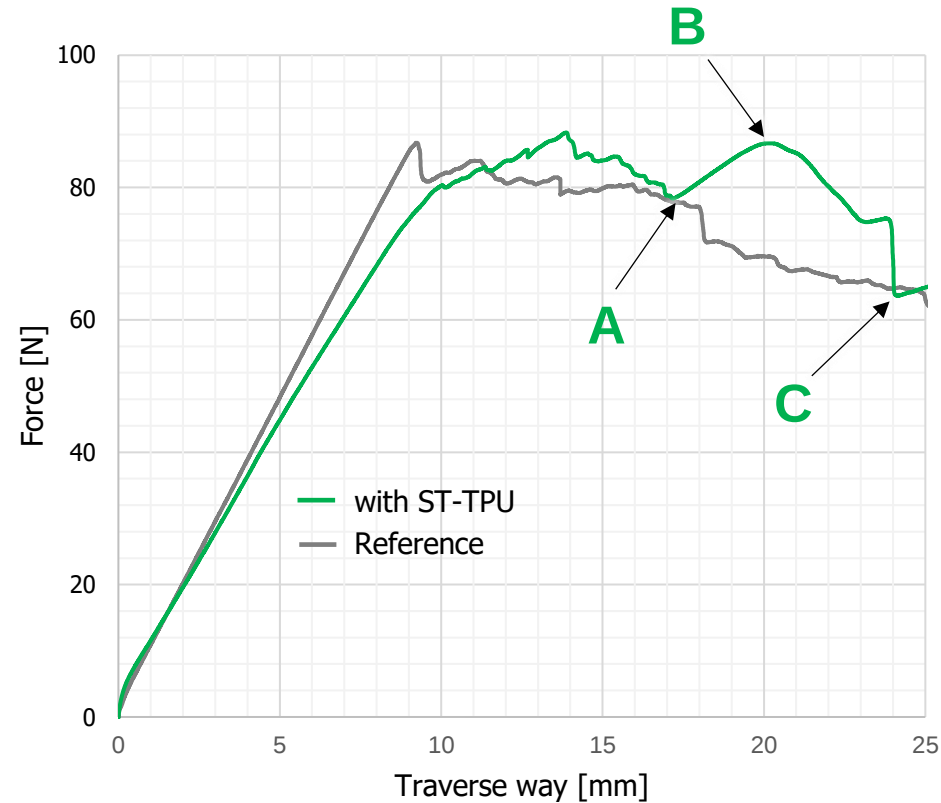
→ Thesis: Strength of yield point increase at -55°C?

→ Use specimen design with higher internal strain of the ST-material?

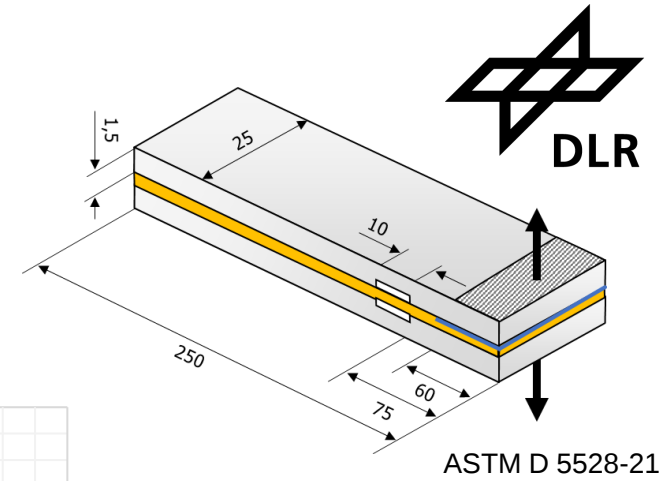
Double Cantilever Beam tests with TPU



DCB test with TPU



Increase of G_{IC} by ~30% (MBT)

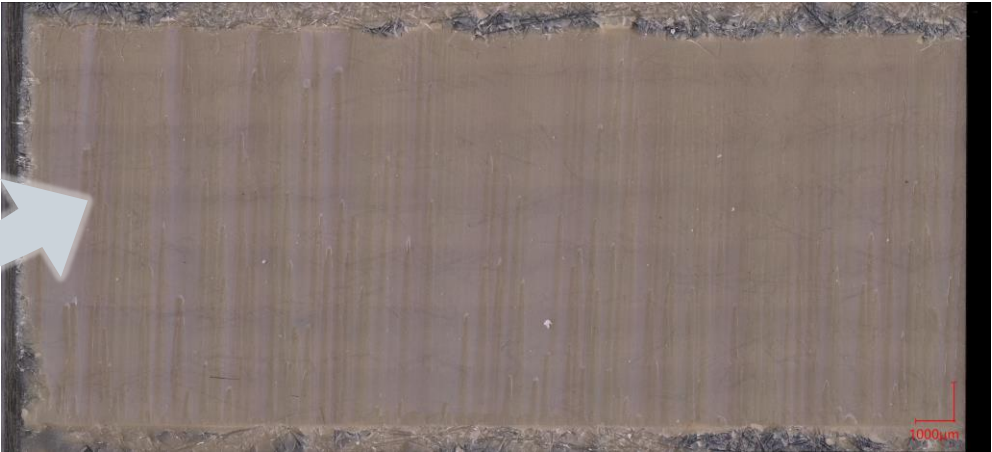
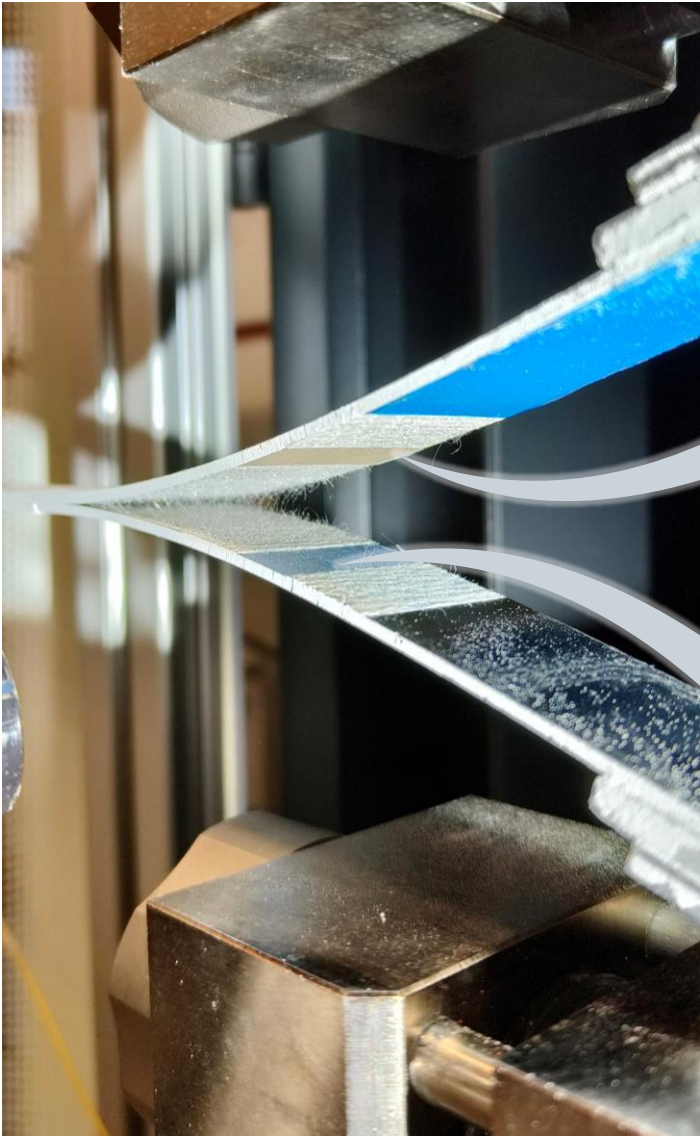
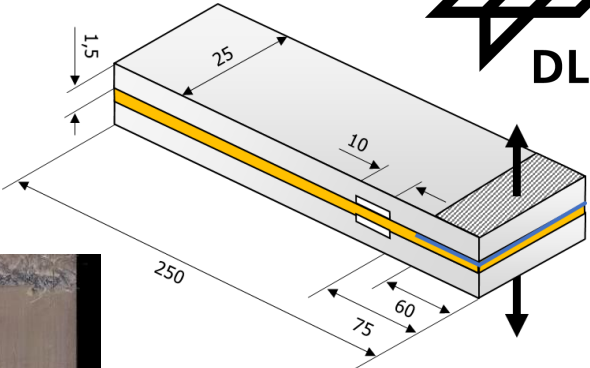


A: Crack stop

B: Crack starts again

C: Crack jumps to the pure adhesive (end of crack stop element)

Double Cantilever Beam tests with TPU

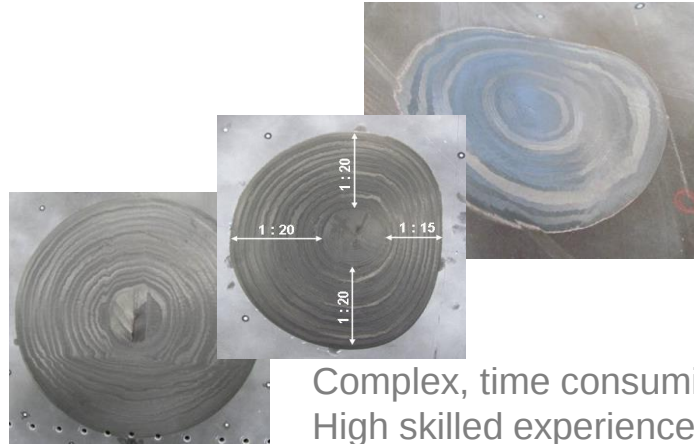
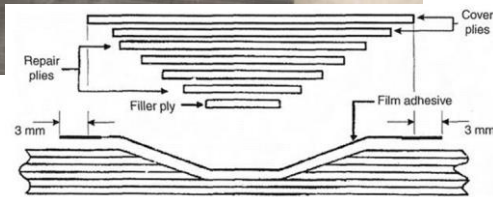


**Surface near
cohesive failure
in TPU**

State of the Art vs. Visual assisted Scarfing



Manual scarfing



Complex, time consuming,
High skilled experience

State of the art

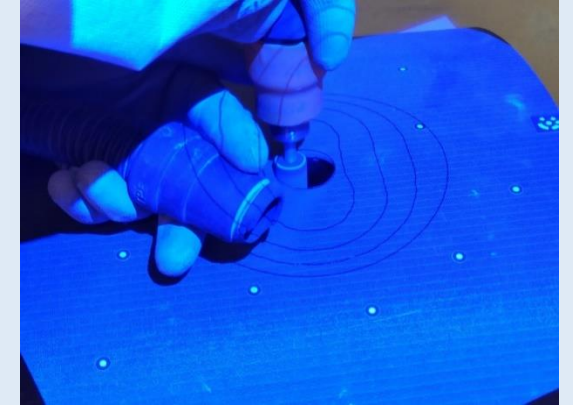
Visual Assisted Scarfing



Robotic Automation
- no business case
- high invest and labor costs



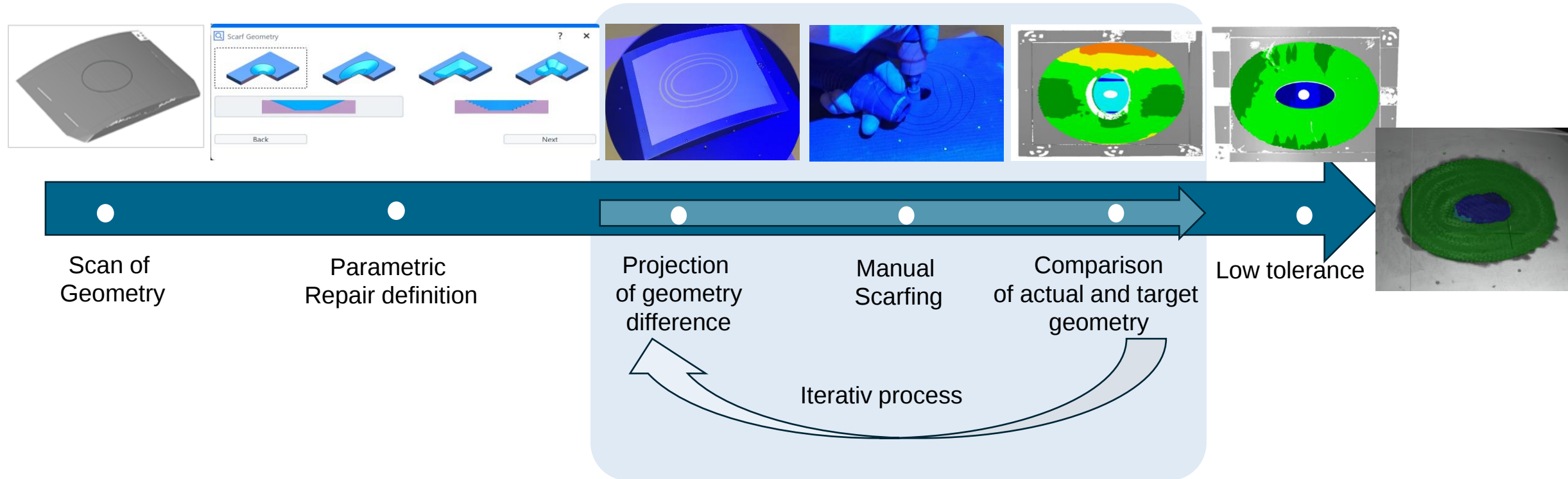
Leslie Tool (GMI©)
Accurate Stepping / Scarfing following simple templates



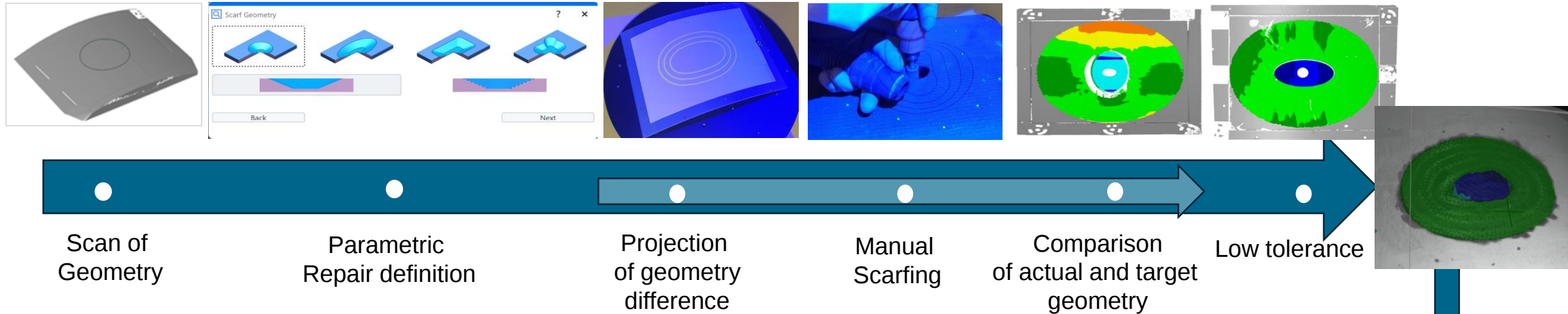
Visual Assistance System for the laborer

- complex scarfs
- curved geometries
- large repairs
- automated generated templates for Leslie tool
- support of additional processes like ply placement

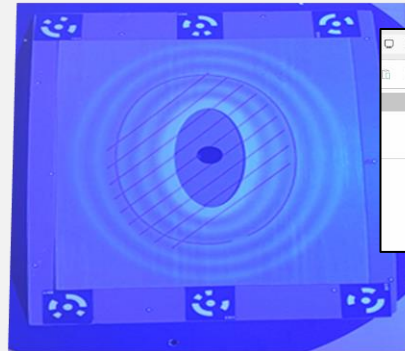
Visual Assisted Scarfing in a Nutshell



Visual Assisted Scarfing in a Nutshell



Synergies

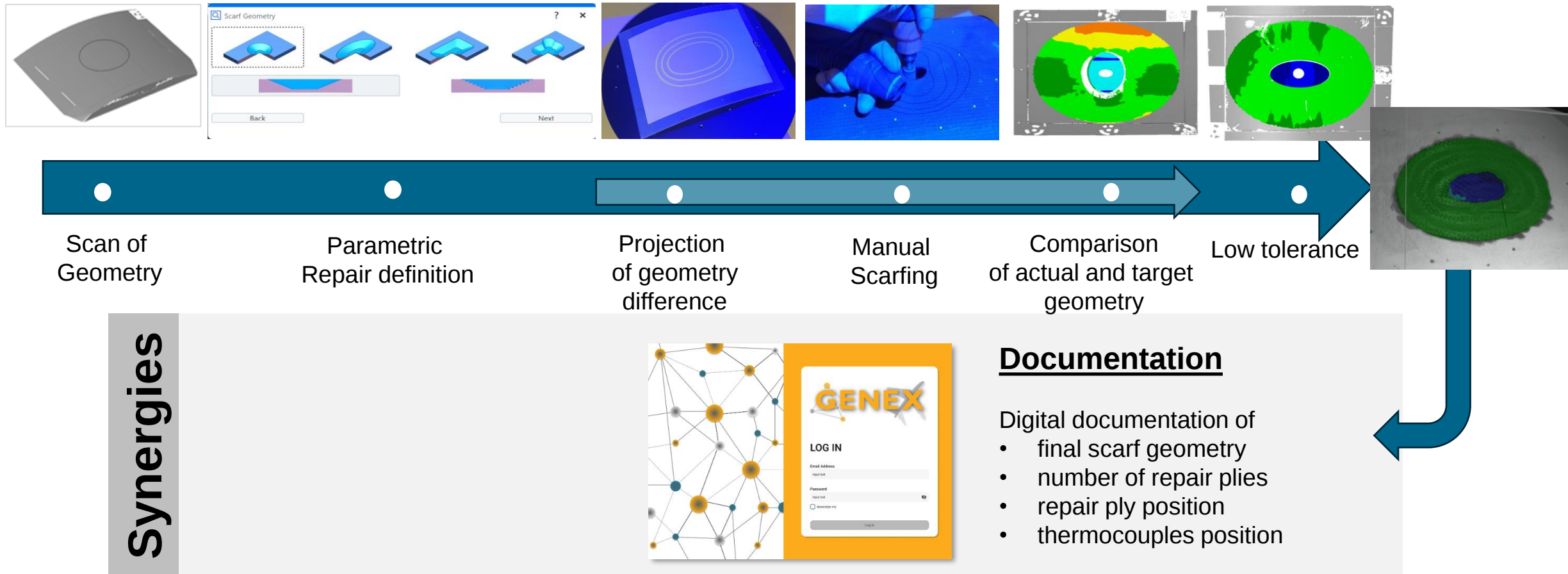


Name	Änderungsdatum	Typ	Größe
Layer 0.jpg	09.09.2024 09:54	IGES-Datensatz	45 KiB
Layer 1.jpg	09.09.2024 09:54	IGES-Datensatz	19 KiB
Layer 2.jpg	09.09.2024 09:54	IGES-Datensatz	18 KiB
Layer 3.jpg	09.09.2024 09:54	IGES-Datensatz	20 KiB
Layer 4.jpg	09.09.2024 09:54	IGES-Datensatz	22 KiB
Layer 5.jpg	09.09.2024 09:54	IGES-Datensatz	24 KiB
Layer 6.jpg	09.09.2024 09:54	IGES-Datensatz	27 KiB
Scanresult.jpg	09.09.2024 09:52	REF/IMG-Datei	10 KiB

Repair Process

- Support of
- Cutting ply contours for NC cutting
 - repair ply placement outline of bagging
 - Projection of thermocouples
 - Projection of backing structures

Visual Assisted Scarfing in a Nutshell



Visual Assisted Scarfing - Components



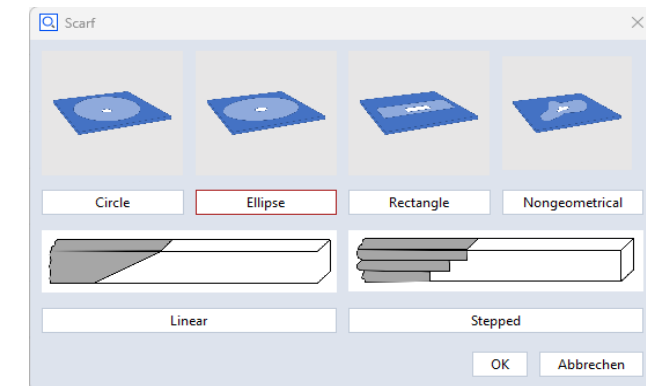
Hardware Zeiss ATOS Scanner

- 3D Scanning and projection in one system
- Industrial available system
- Dust proof housing for commercial use
- Mobile system for infield repair operation
- Suitable field of view for repair purposes



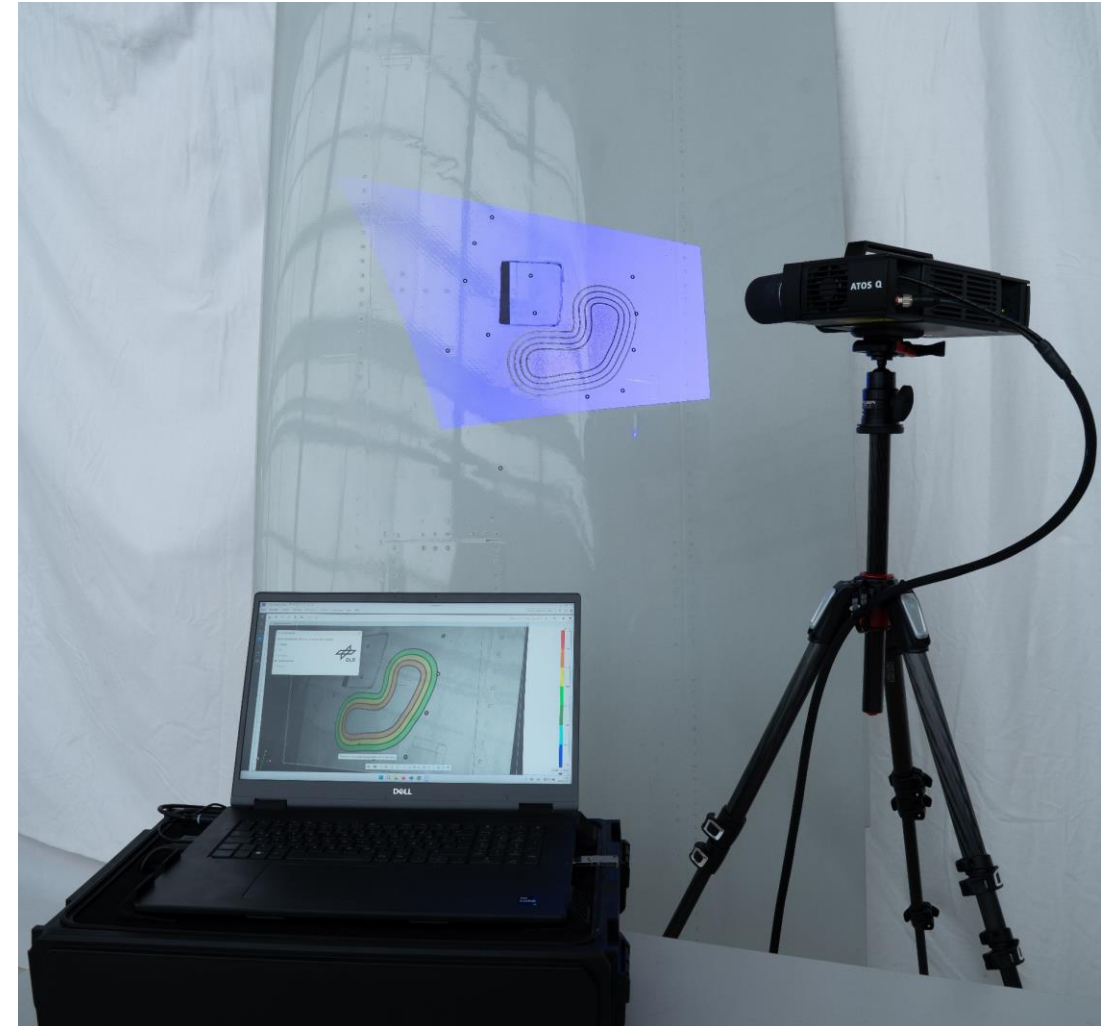
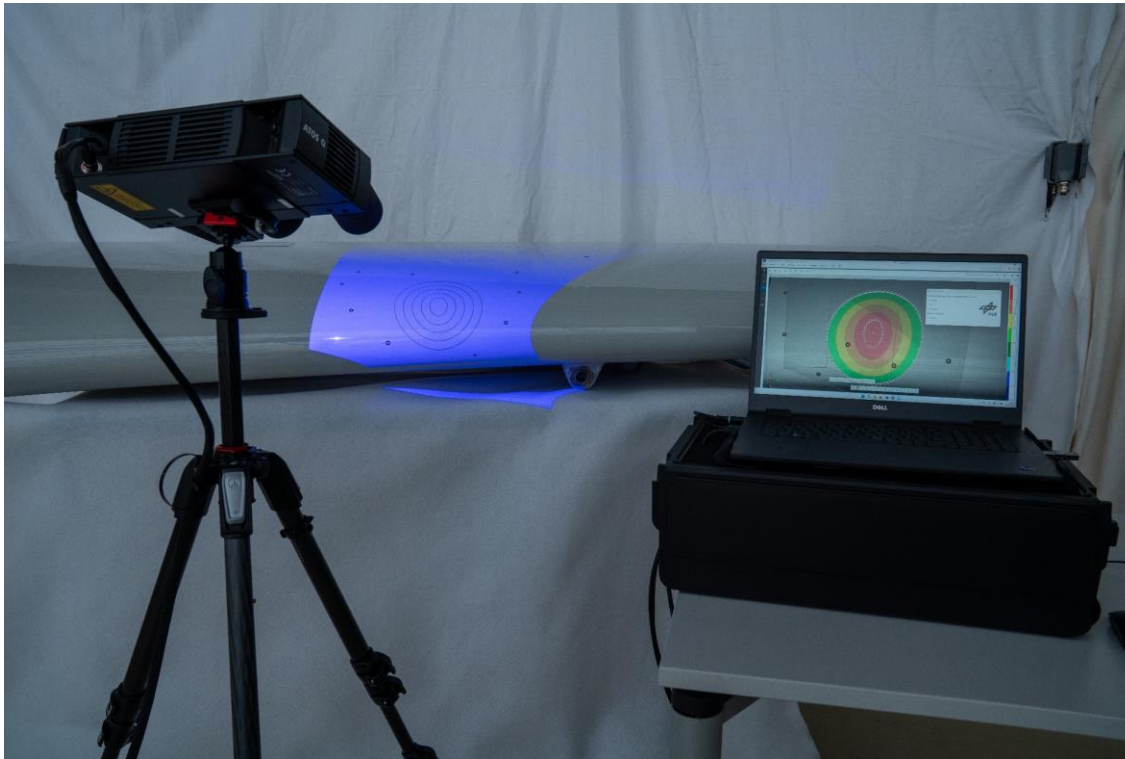
Control Software

- Flexible and adaptive software interface
- Automates Repair Design
- Visualizes & Manages Comparisons
- Interfaces with other software

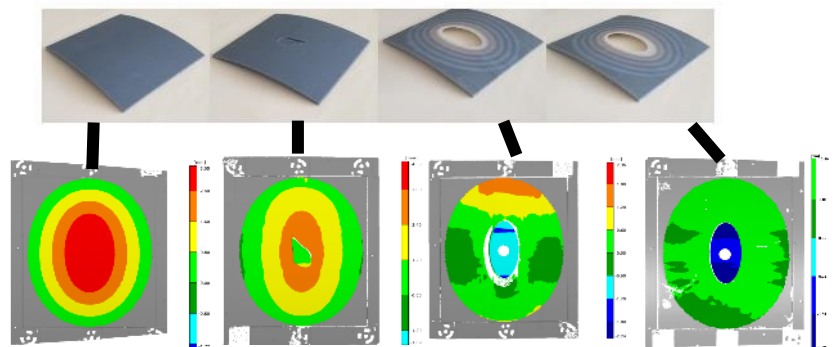
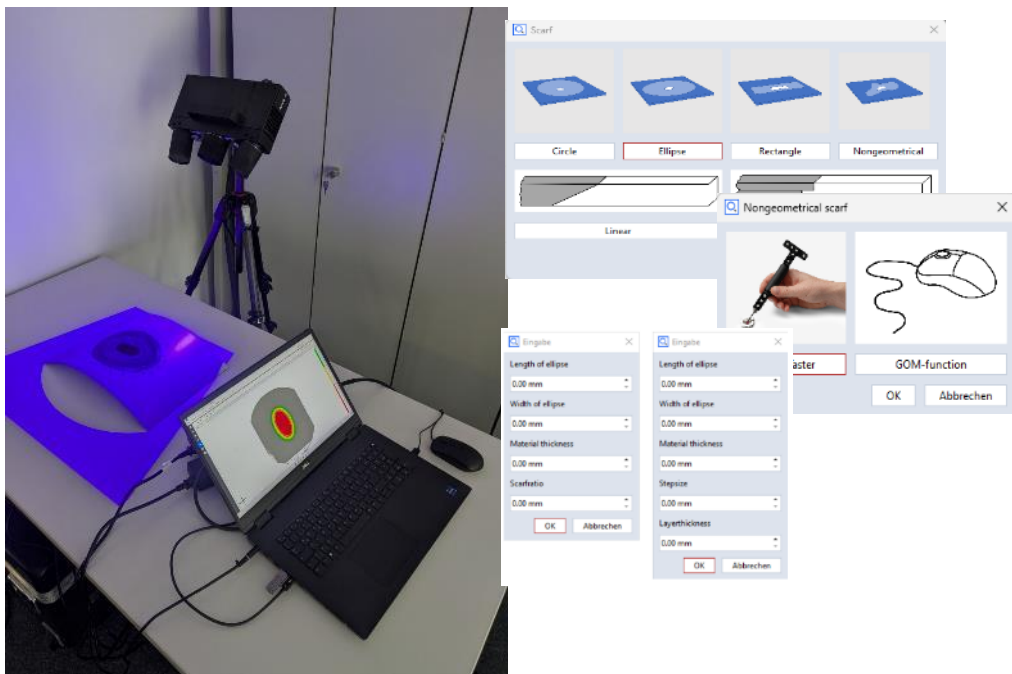


Power Unit and Control PC

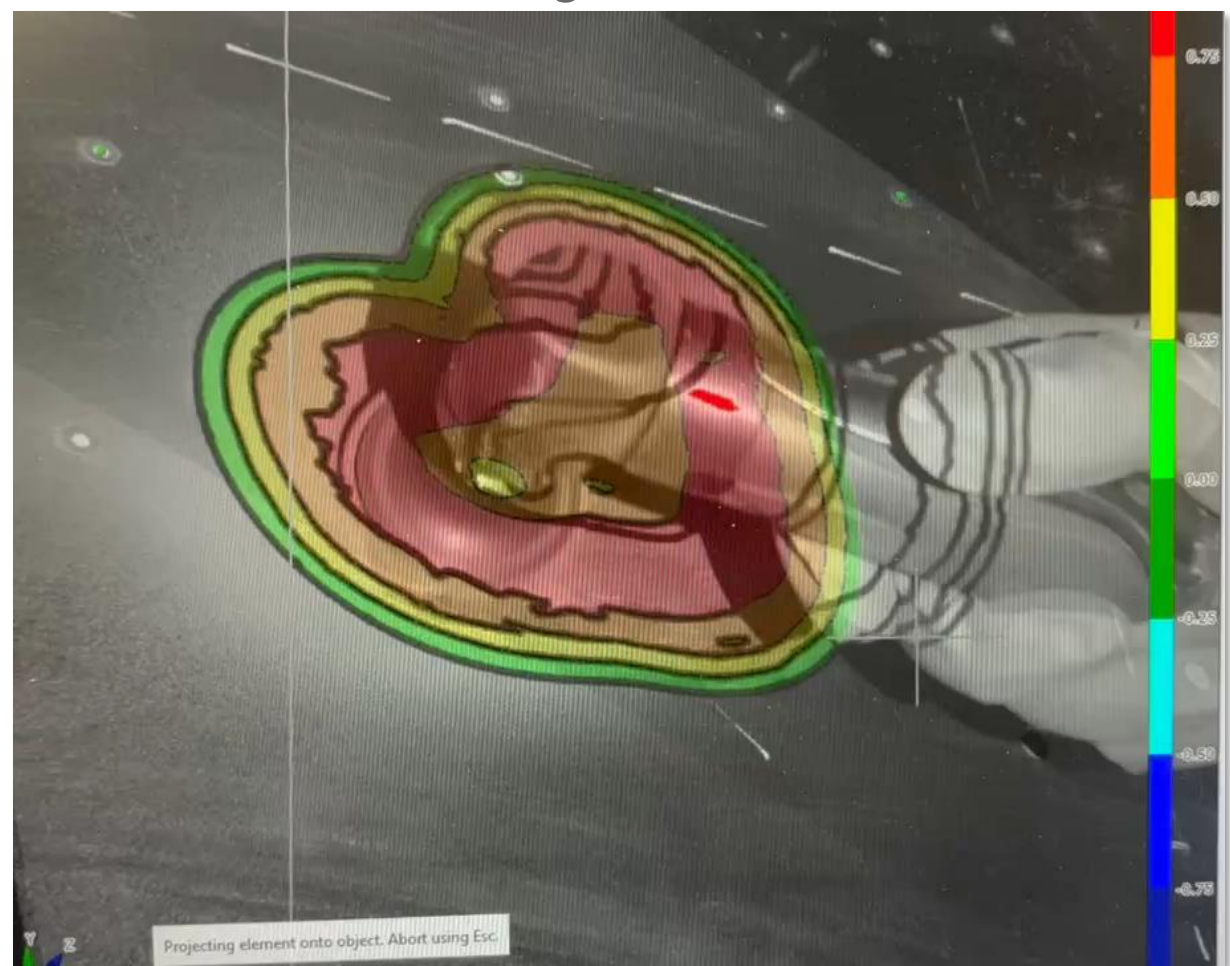
Visual Assisted Scarfing - Components



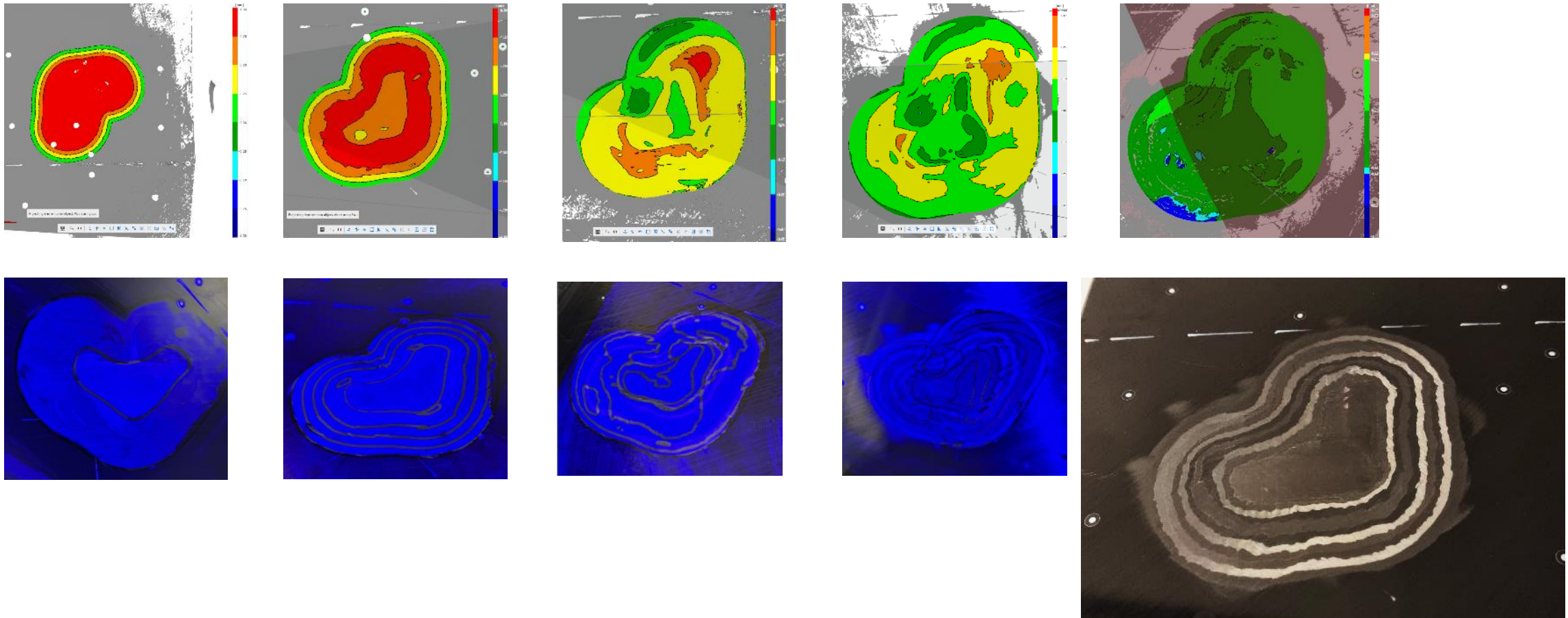
VAS - Lab-Scale test



Augmented View



VAS - Lab-Scale test



The „worker“ was our student grinding his second scarf in his life...

Local Data Management - IoT Plattform – Digital Twin



[HOME](#) [RECORD](#) [INSPECTION](#) [SRM](#)

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE RECORD VIEWER

Select an aircraft manufacturer
Airbus

Select an aircraft
A350

Select MSN
12345

SHOW THE AIRCRAFT

Repairs made

REPAIR_1

REPAIR_2

REPAIR_3

REPAIR_4

Information of scarf repair

SCARF SHAPE	Ellipse
SCARF TYPE	Continuous
LENGTH	80.0
WIDTH	40.0
DEPTH	1.0
OFFSET	20.0

PICTURES

PREVIOUS

Next



[HOME](#) [RECORD](#) [INSPECTION](#) [SRM](#)

DAMAGE INFORMATION

WORKING AREA

MEASURE

REPORT

Damage information

Dent

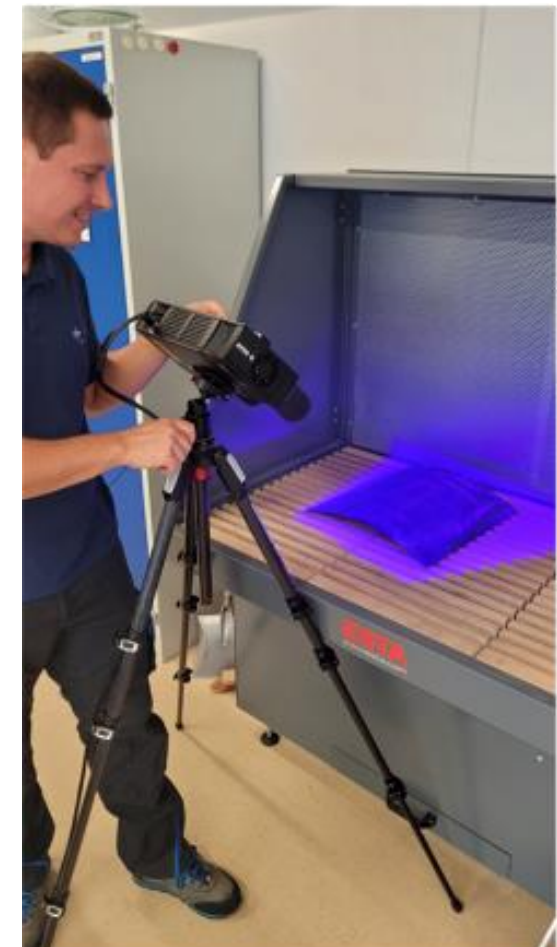
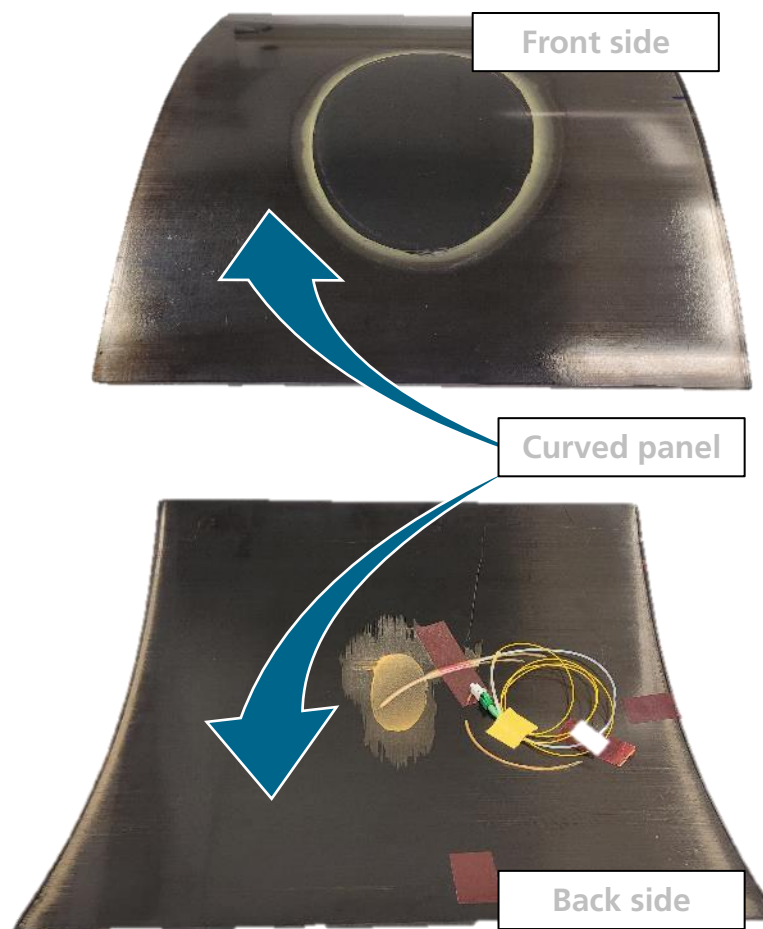
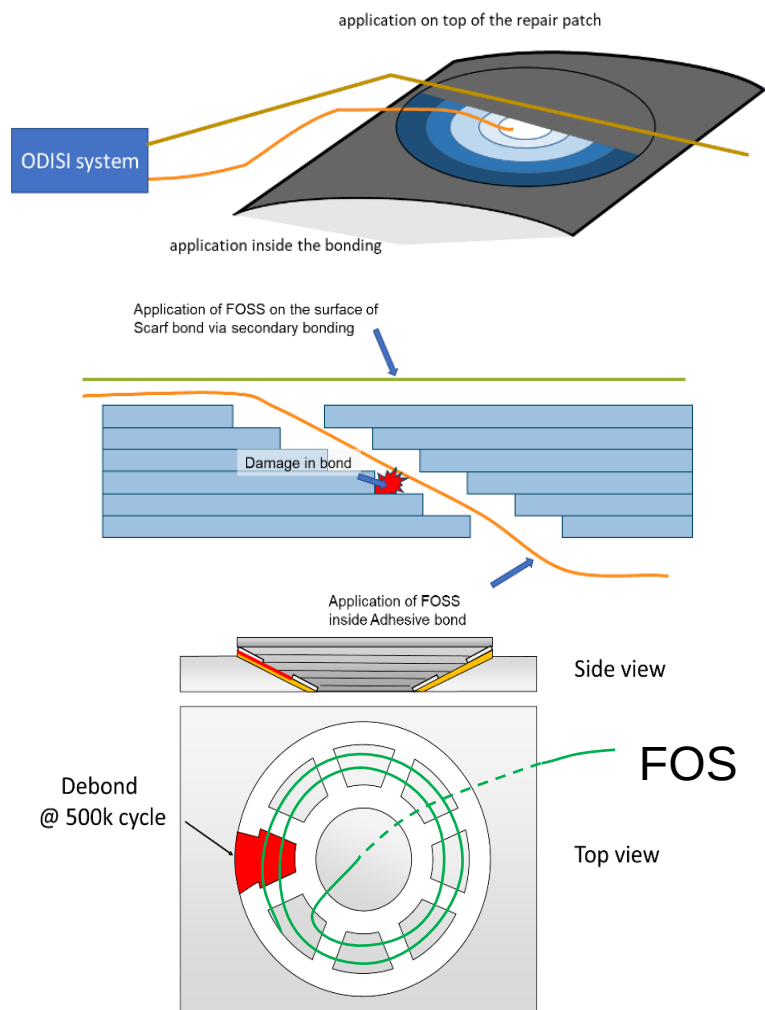
Draw length of the damage
15 mm

Draw width of the damage
10 mm

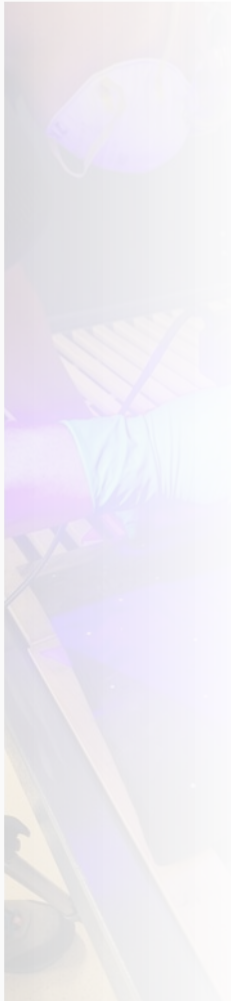
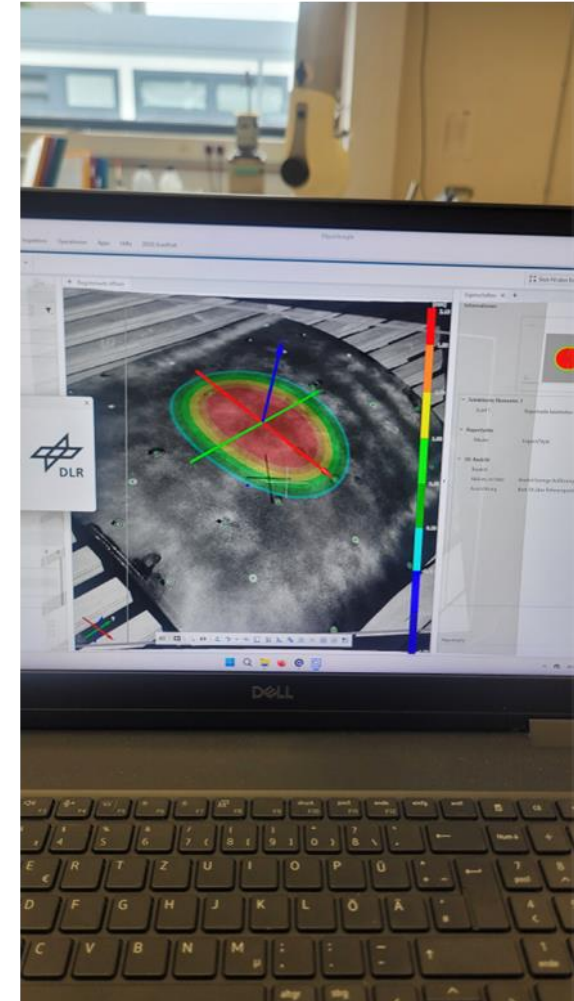
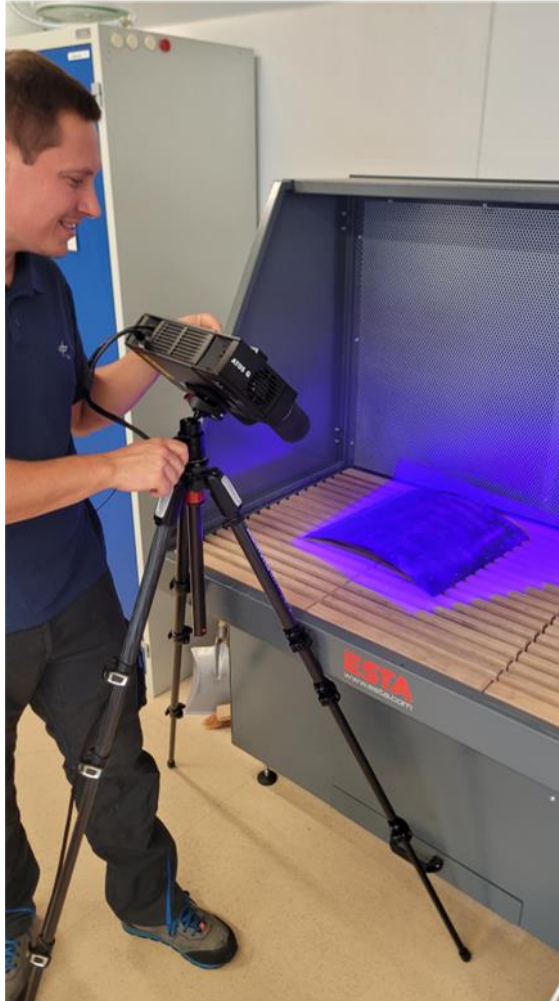
Draw depth of the damage
0.1 mm

D = Depth Max

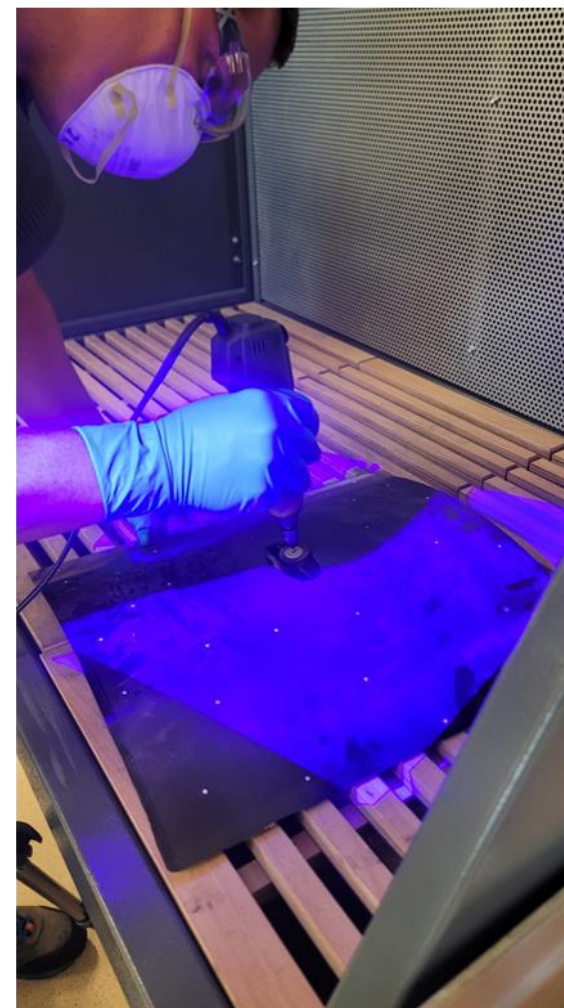
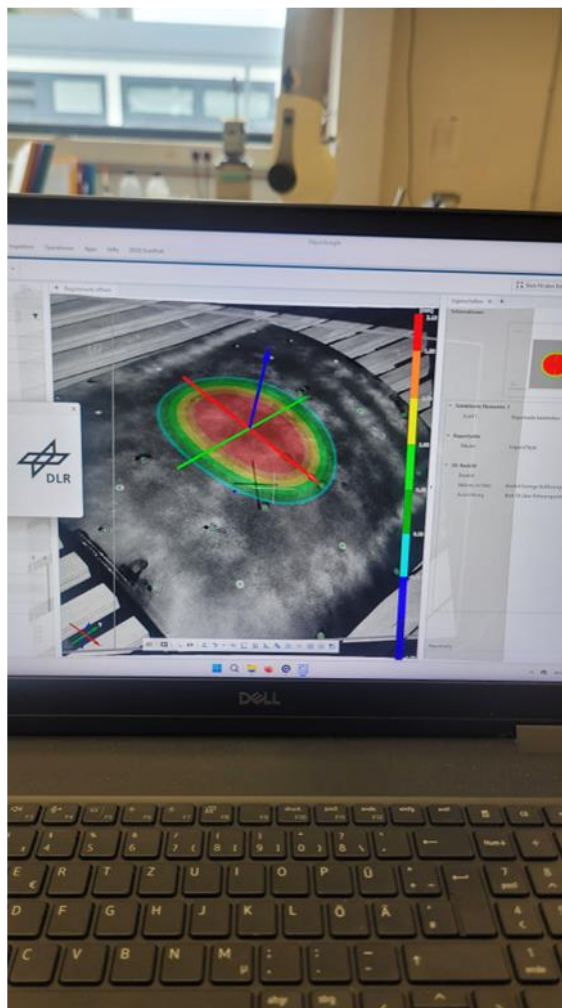
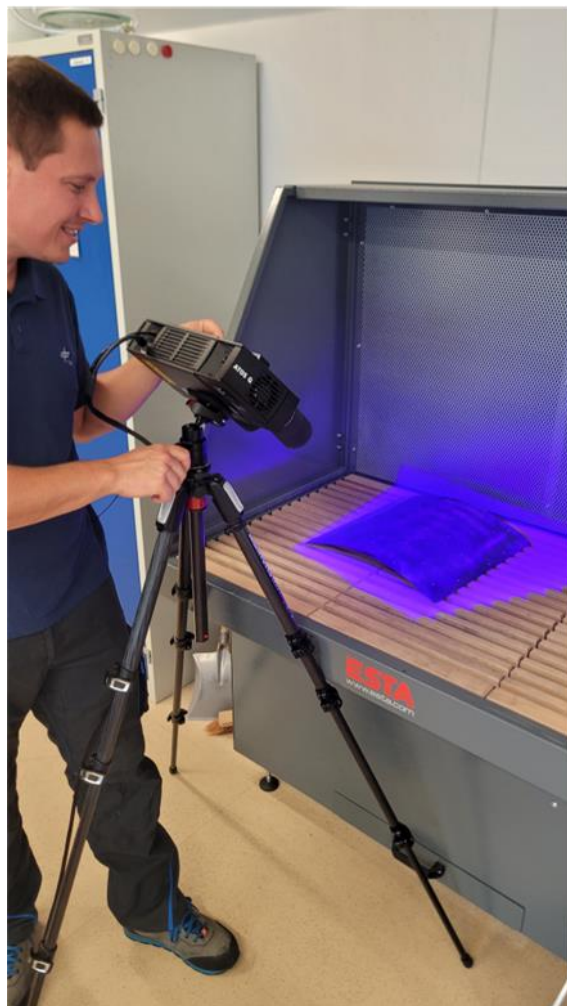
Combining FOSS, Crack stopper and VAS Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair



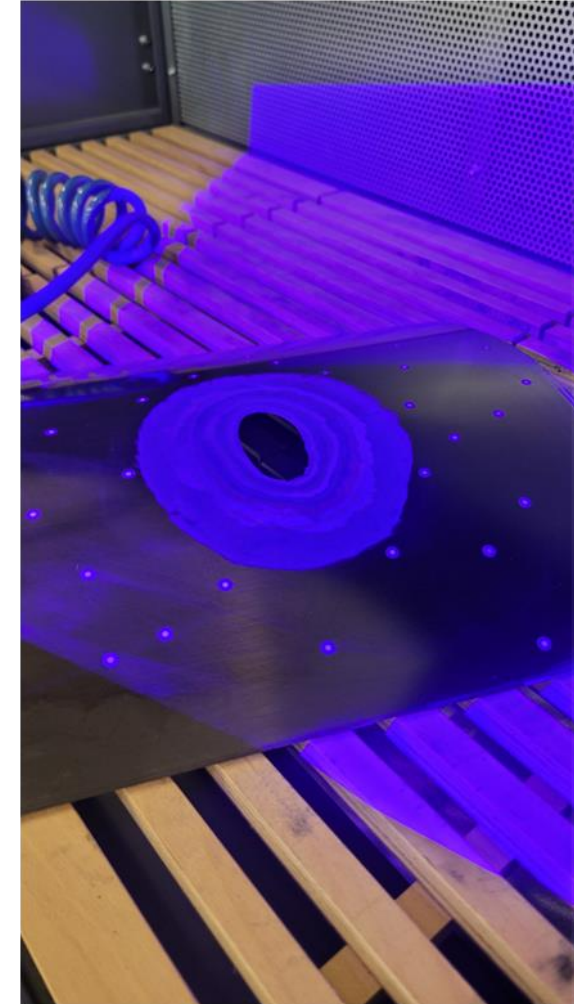
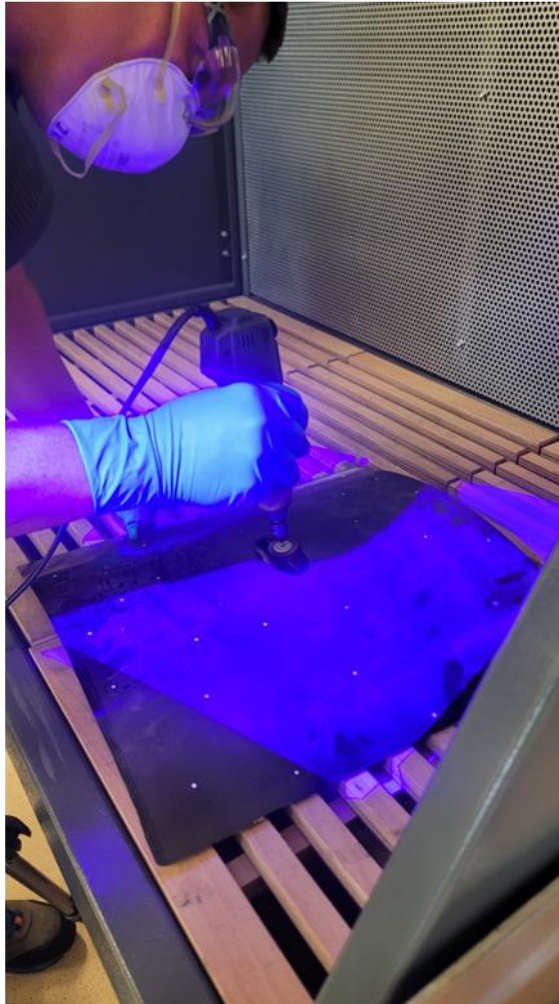
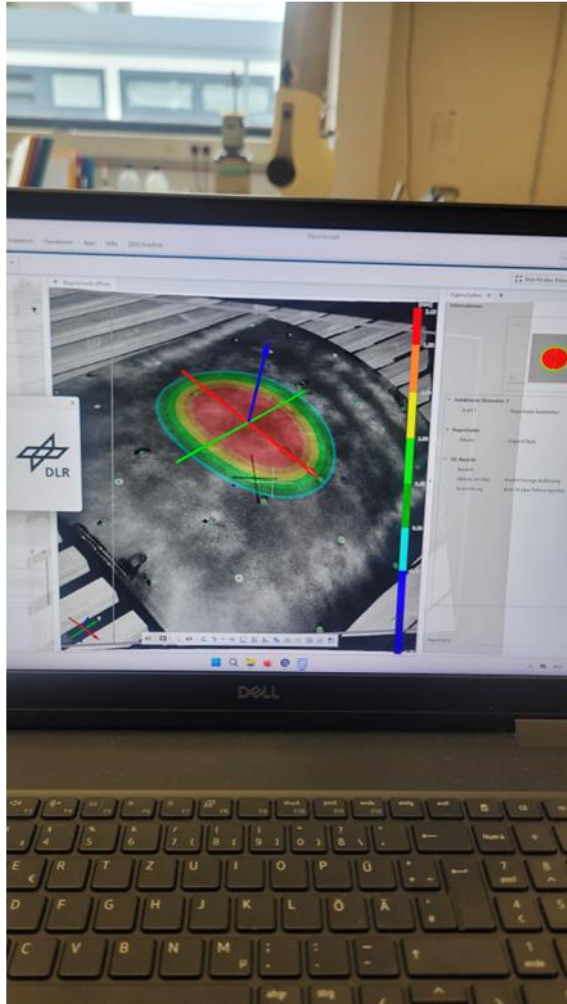
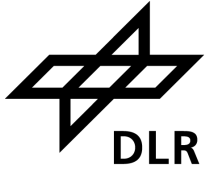
Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair



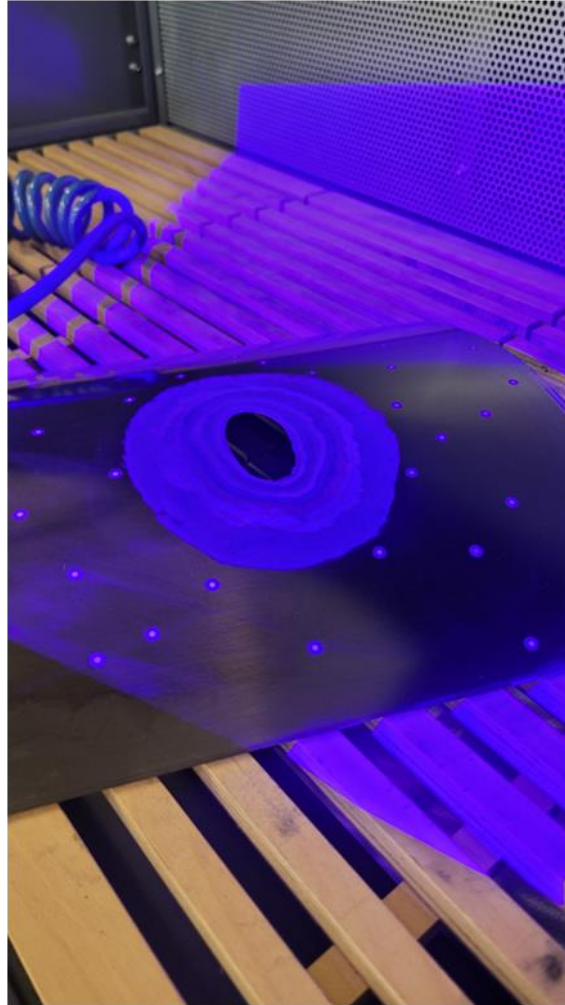
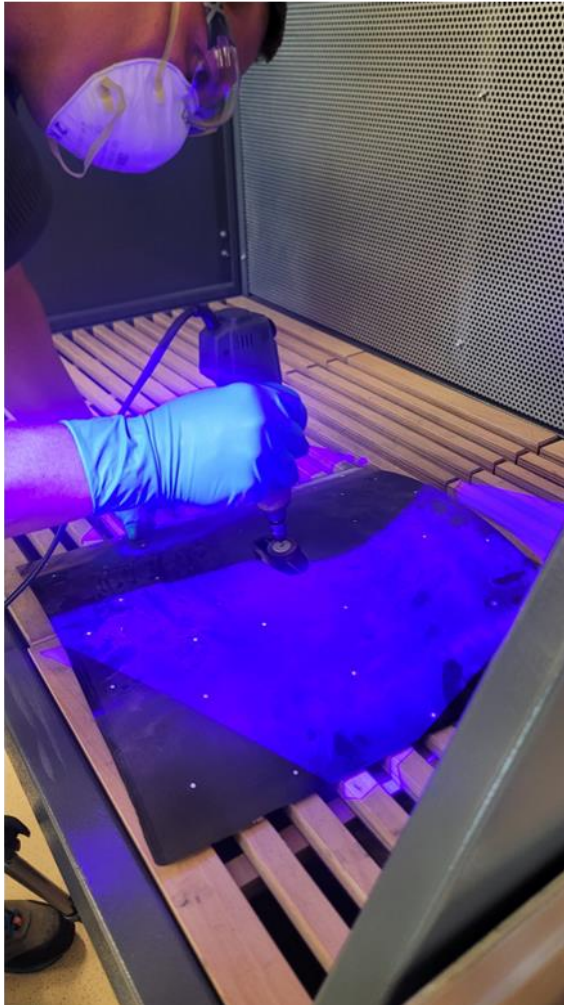
Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair



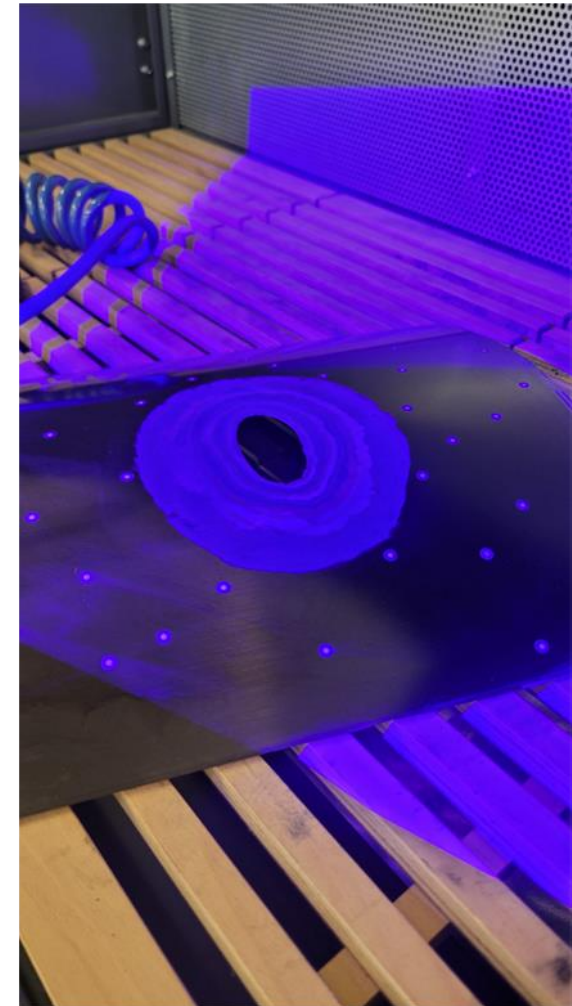
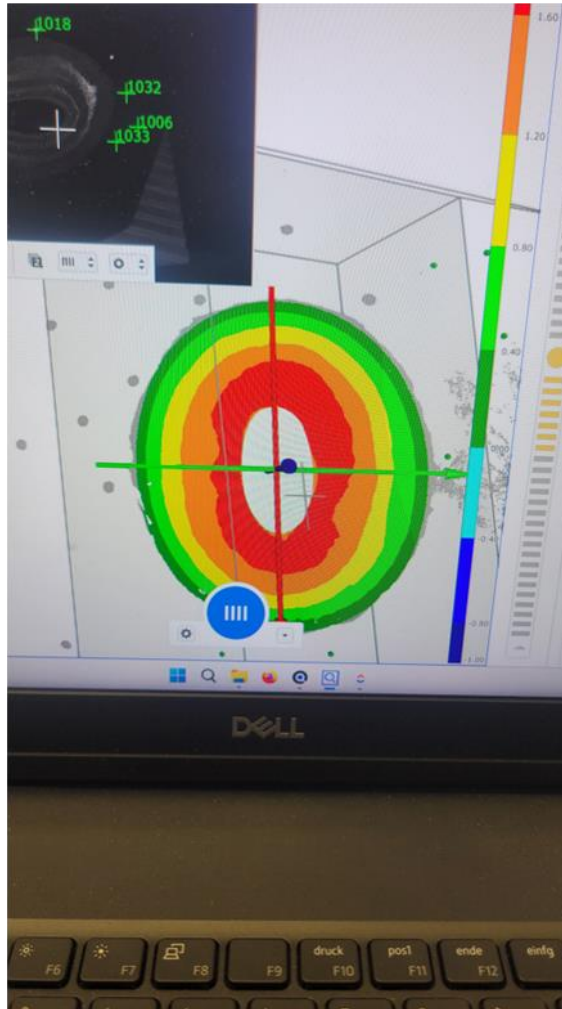
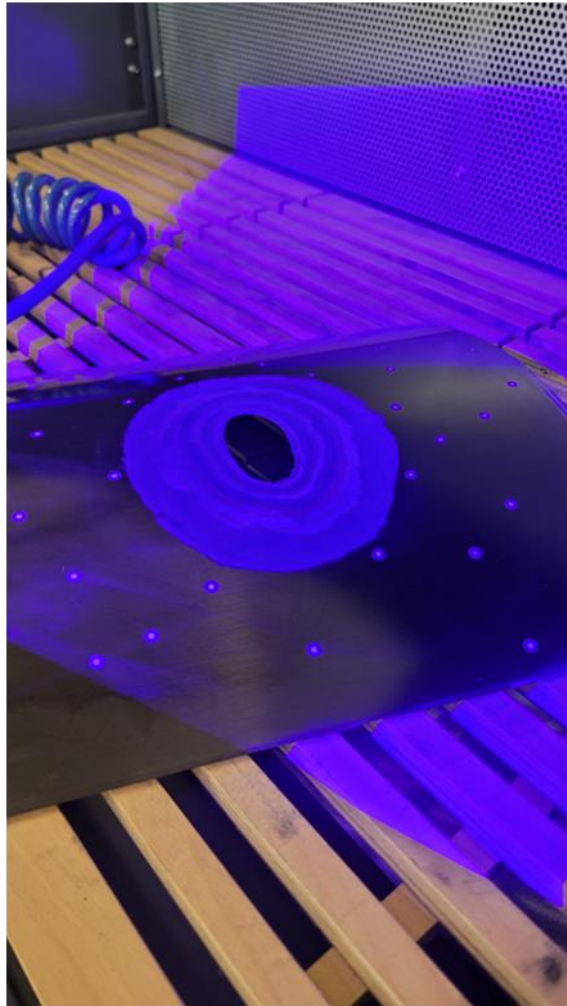
Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair



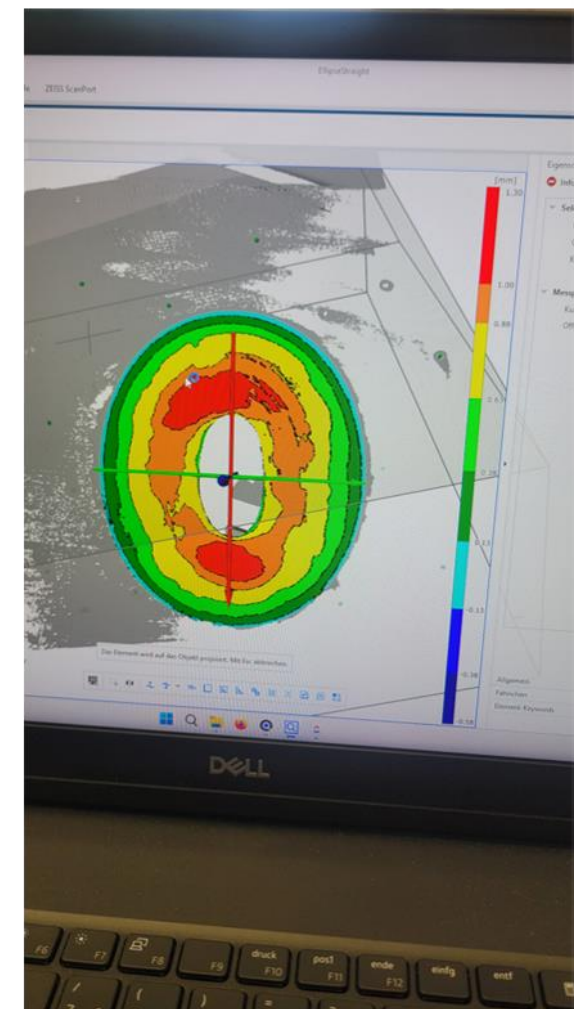
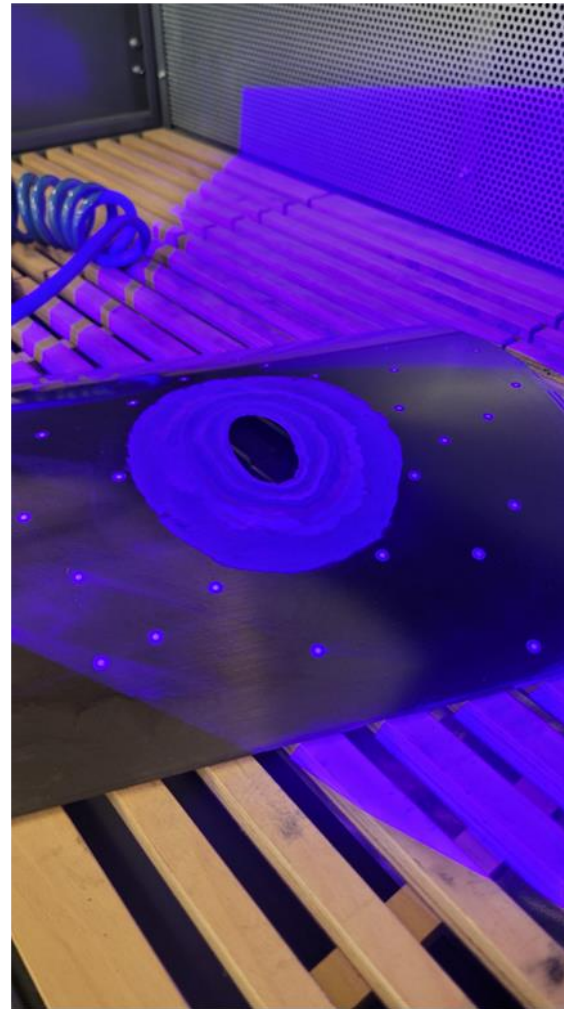
Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair



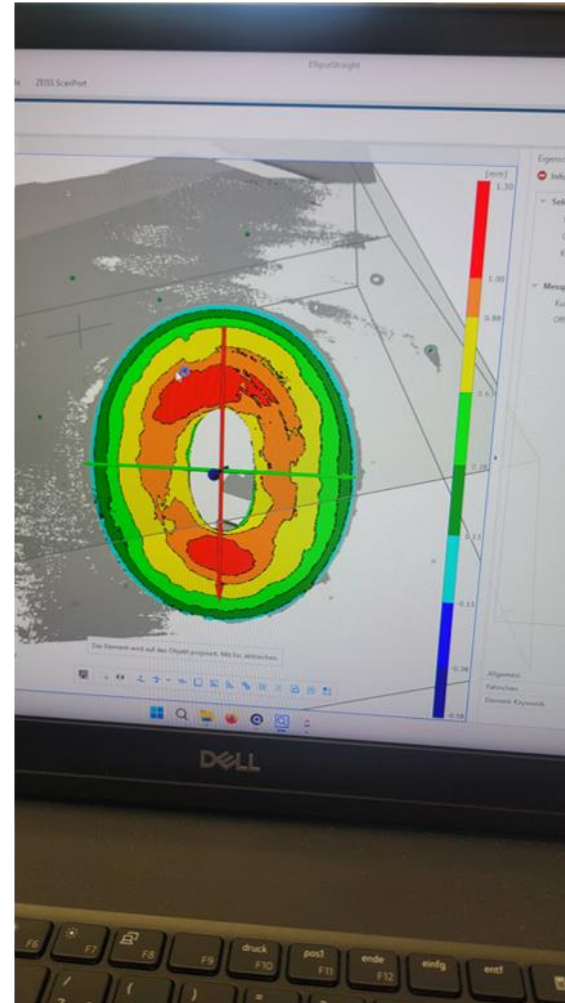
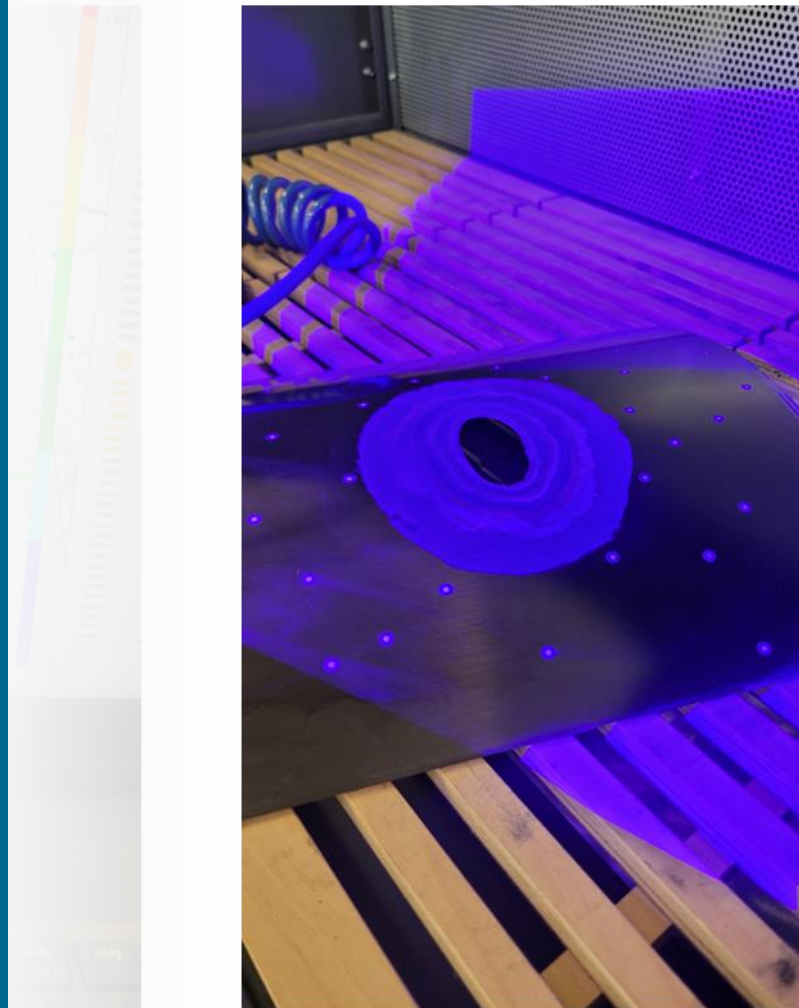
Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair



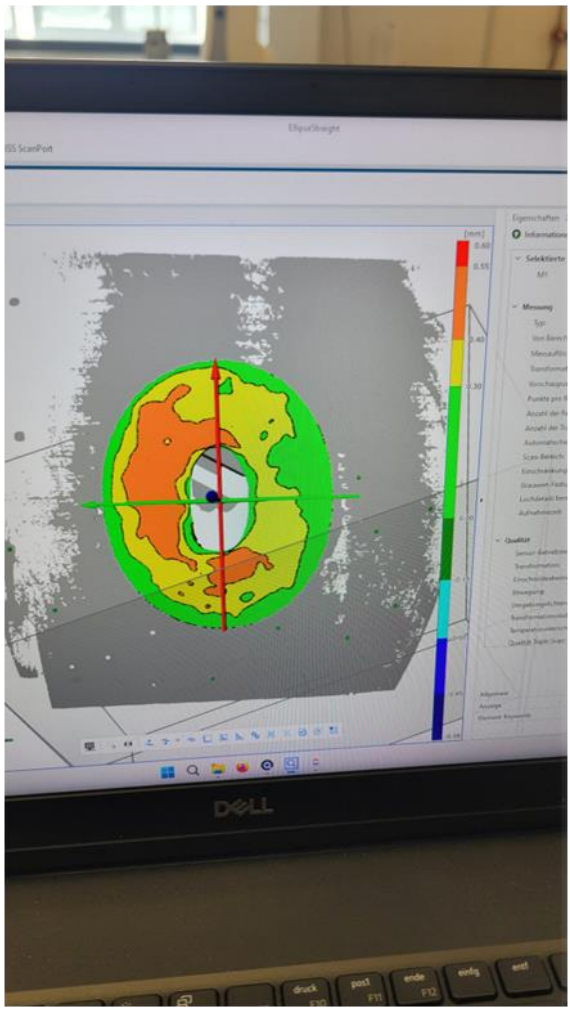
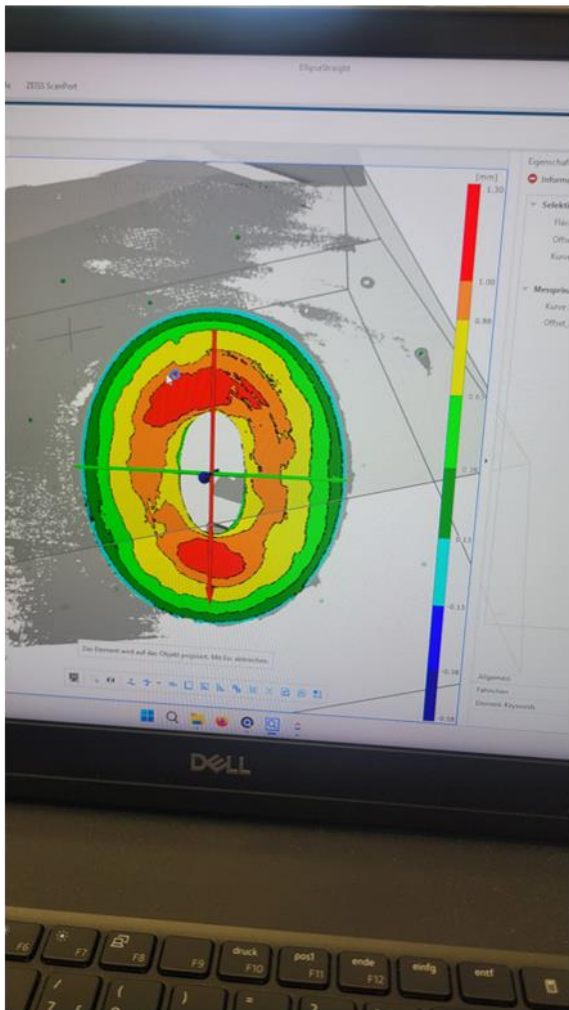
Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair



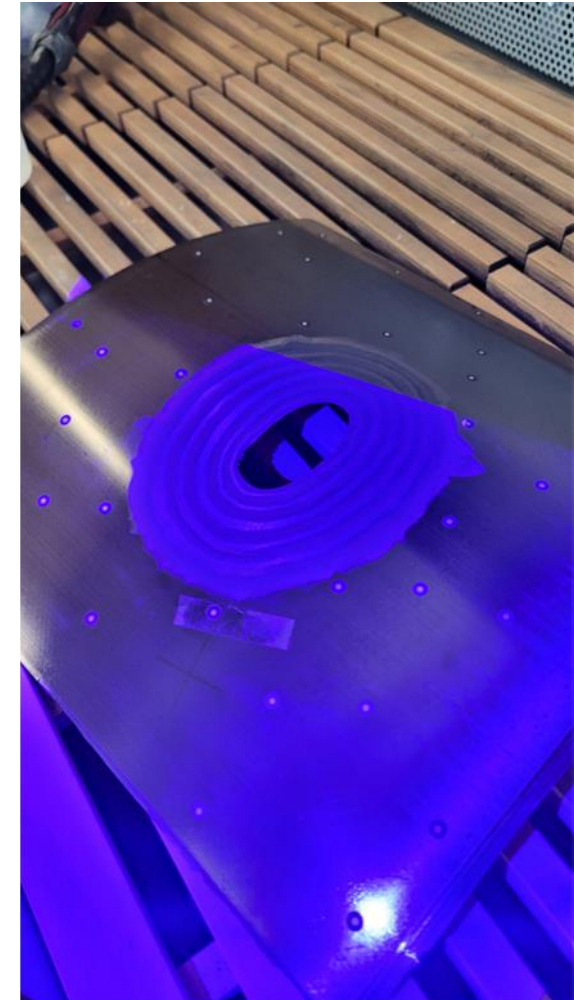
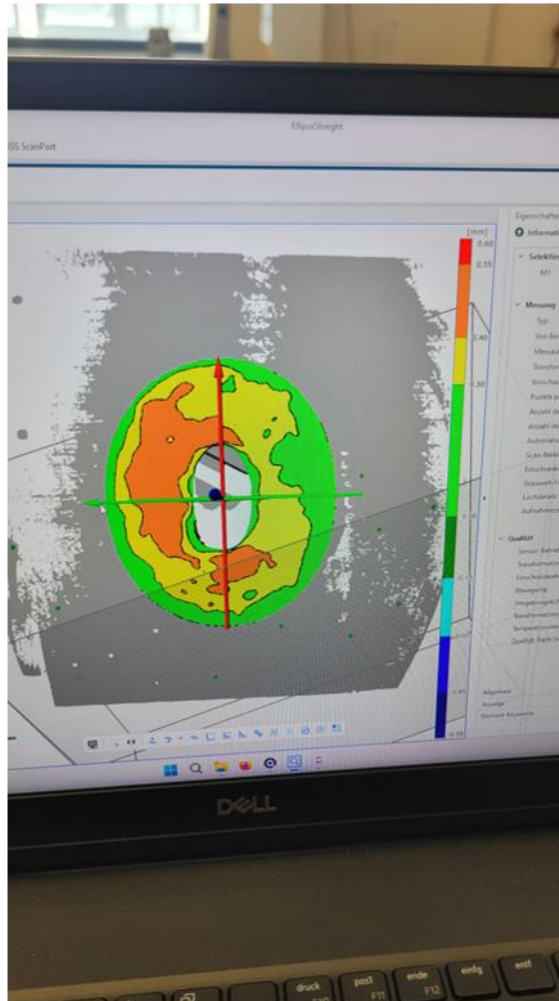
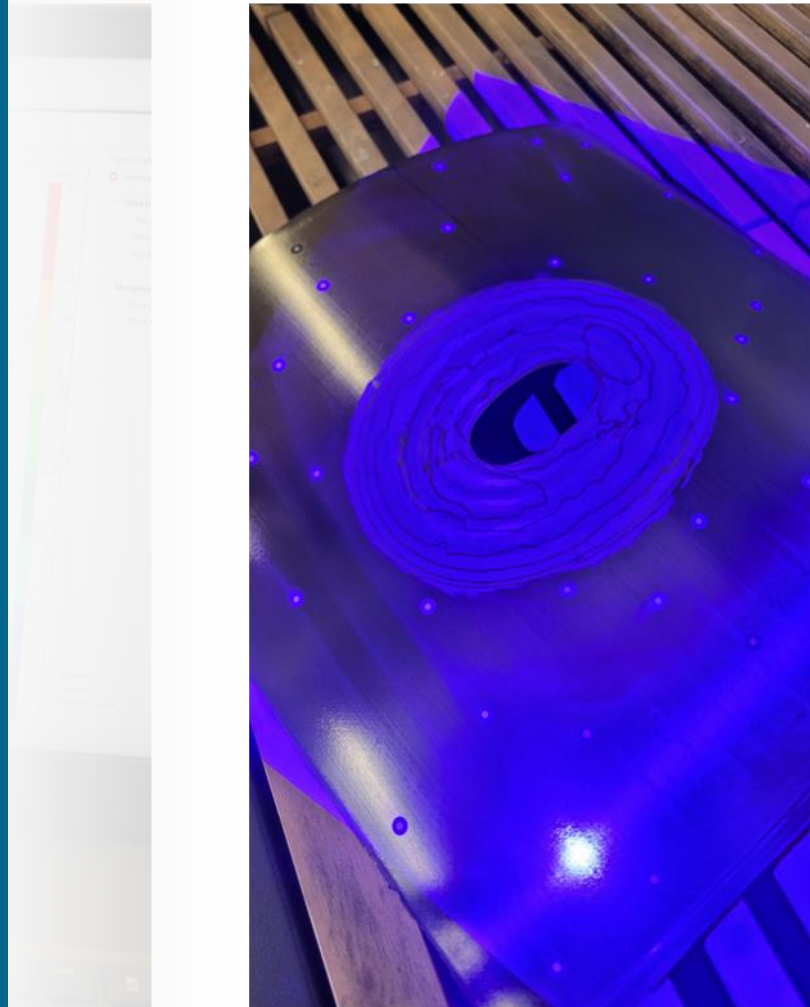
Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair



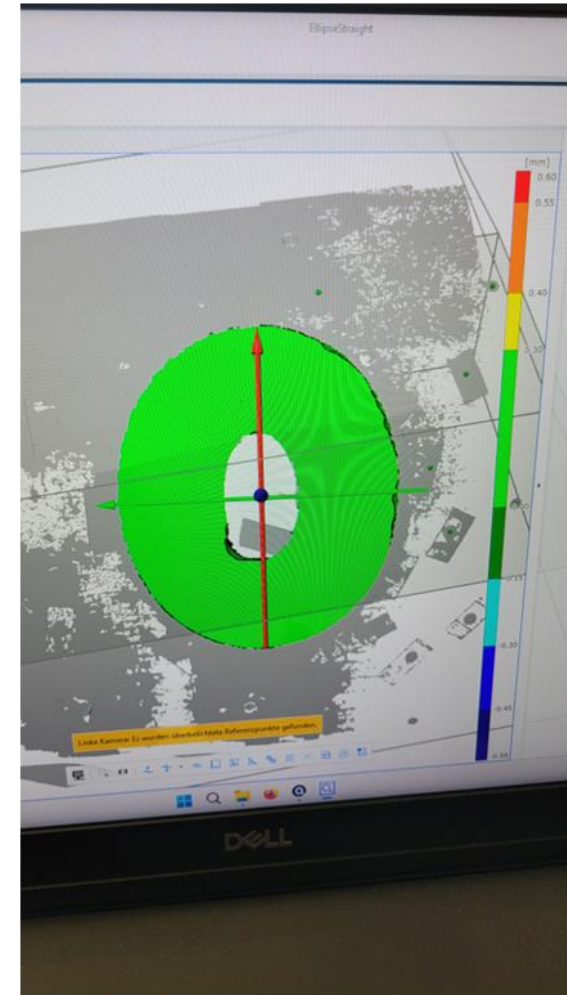
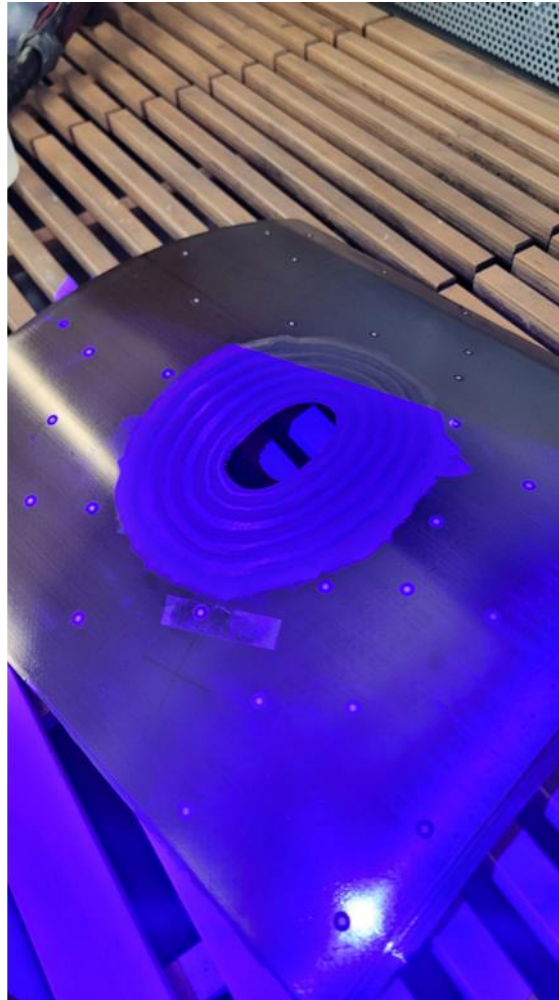
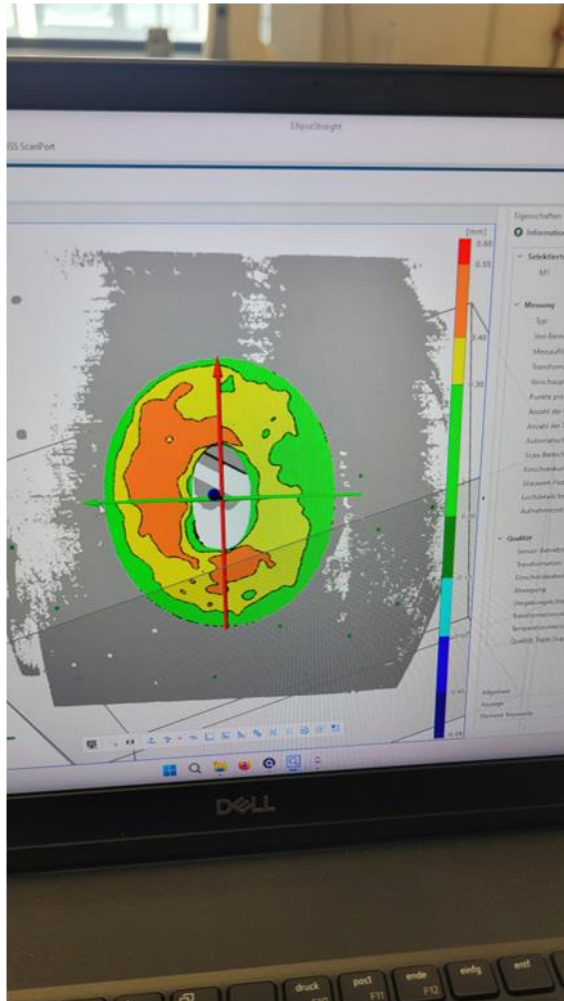
Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair



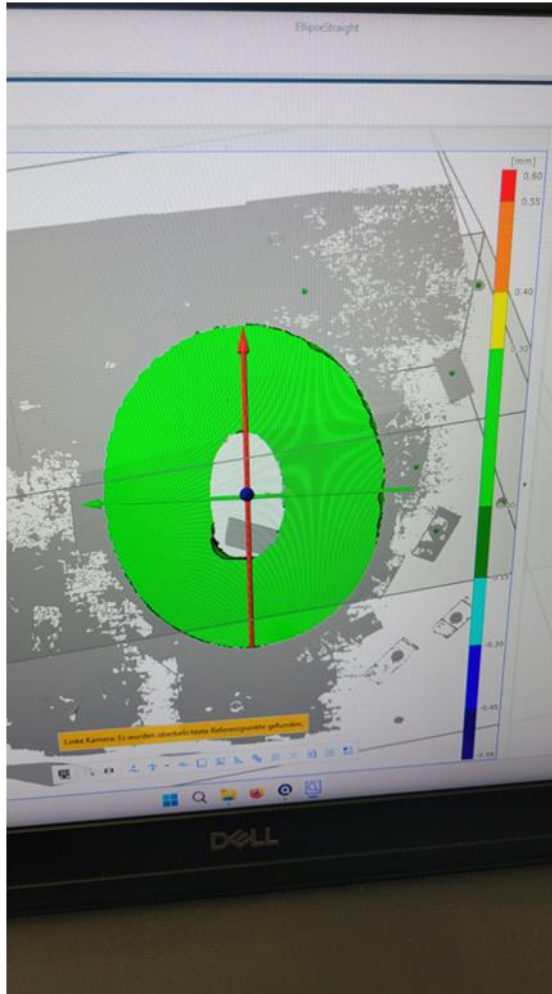
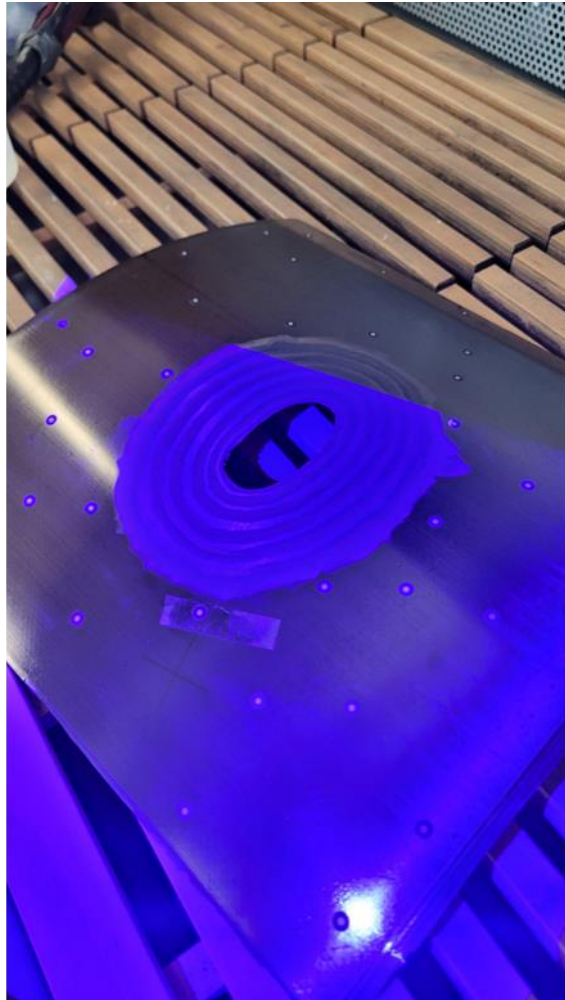
Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair



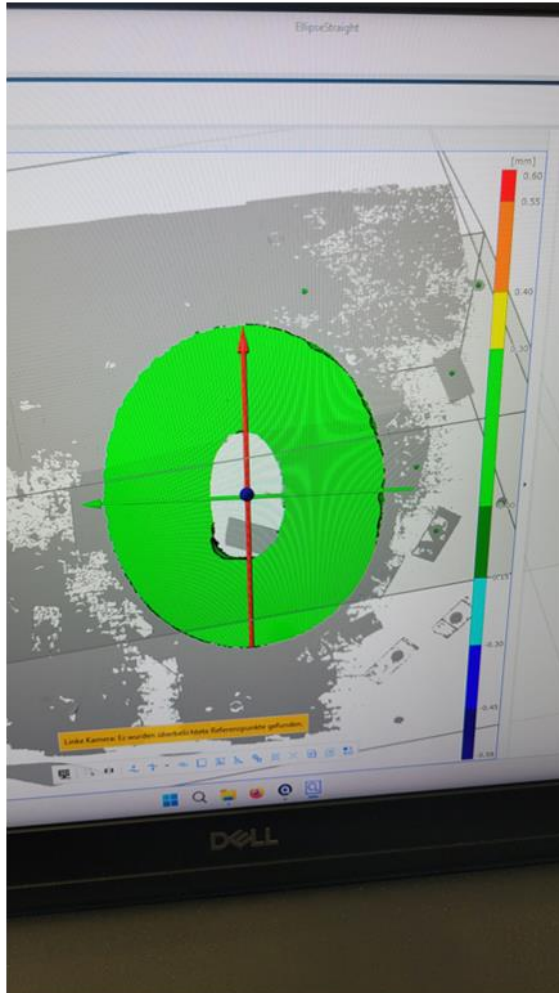
Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair



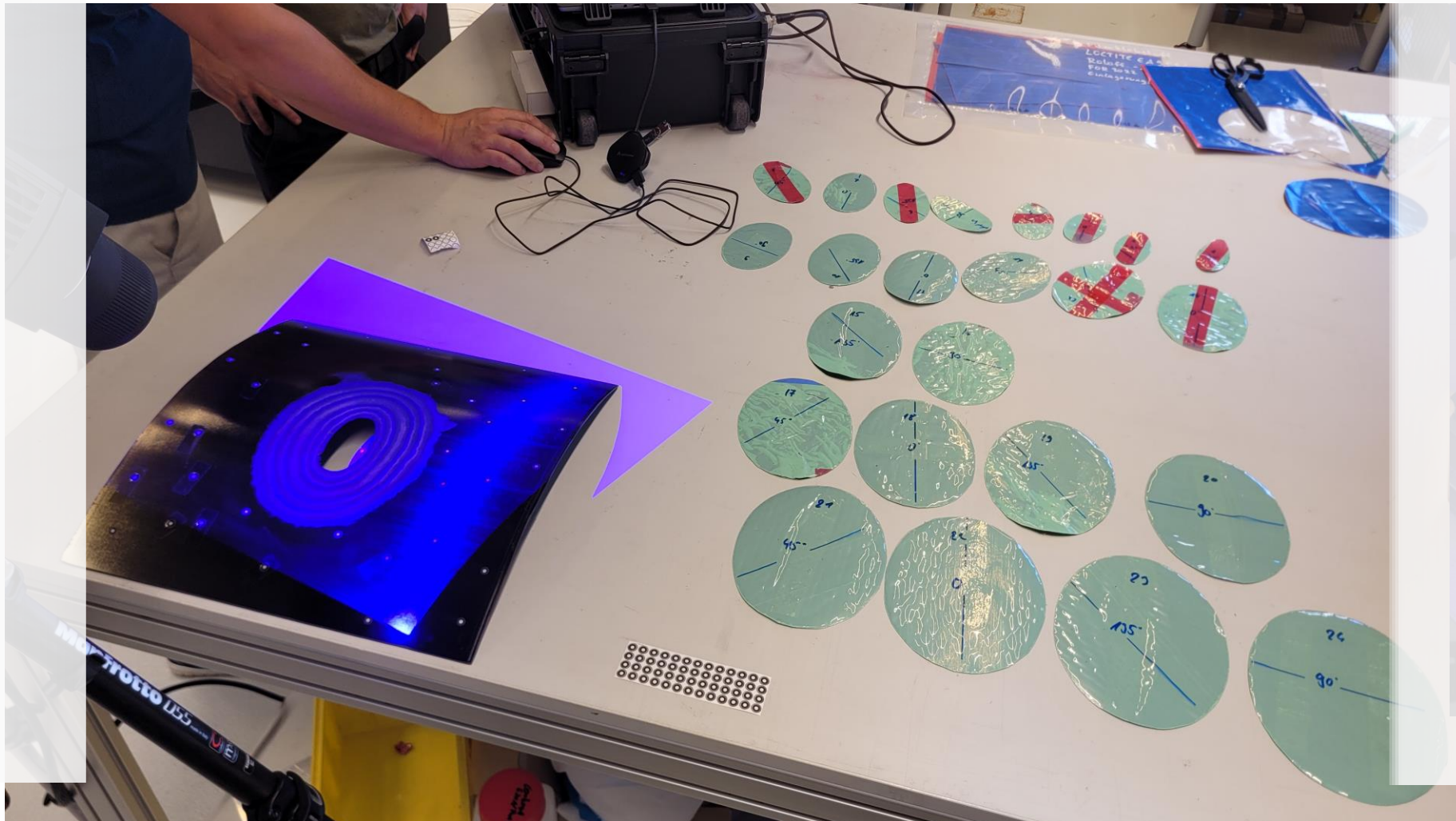
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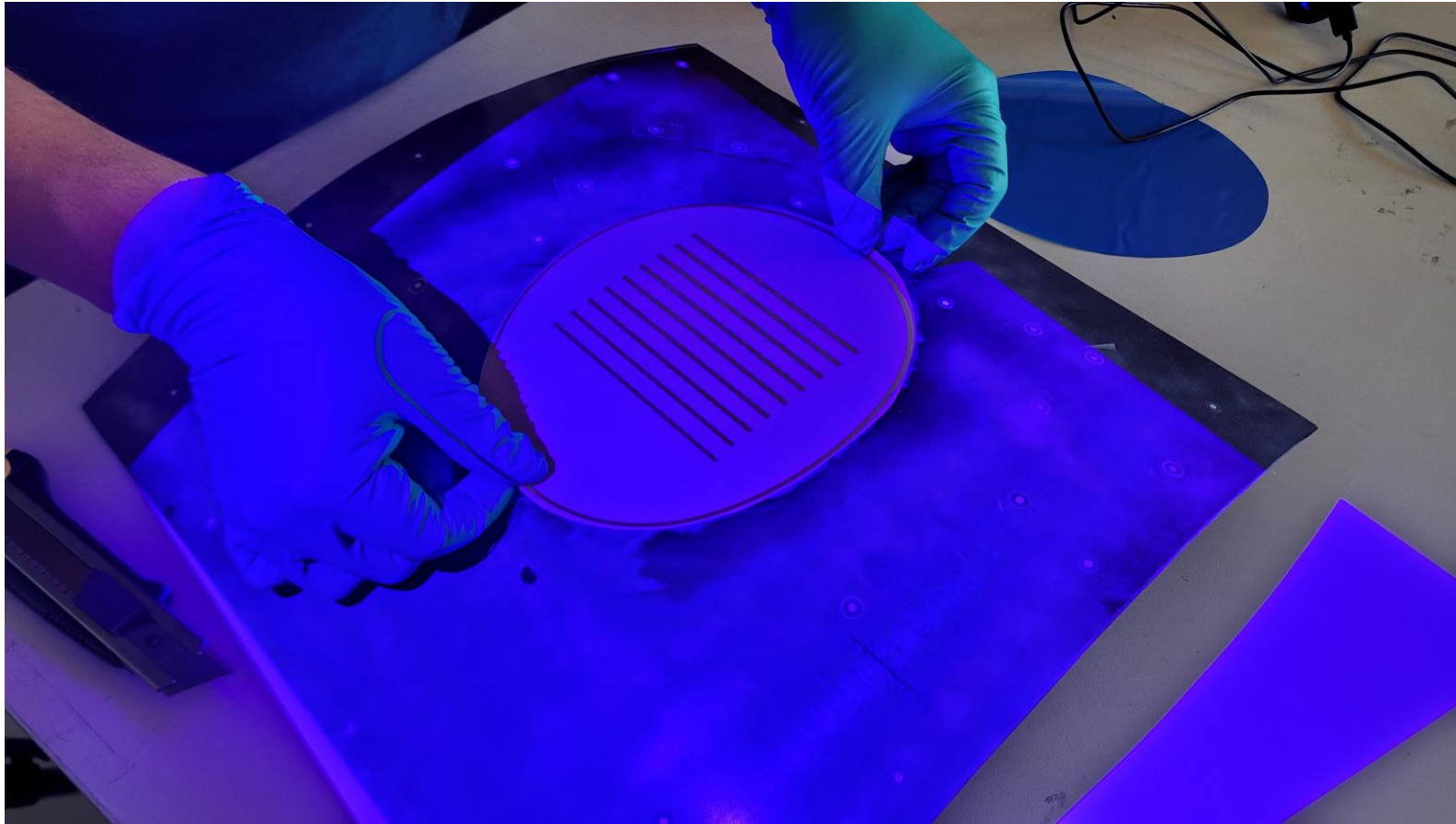
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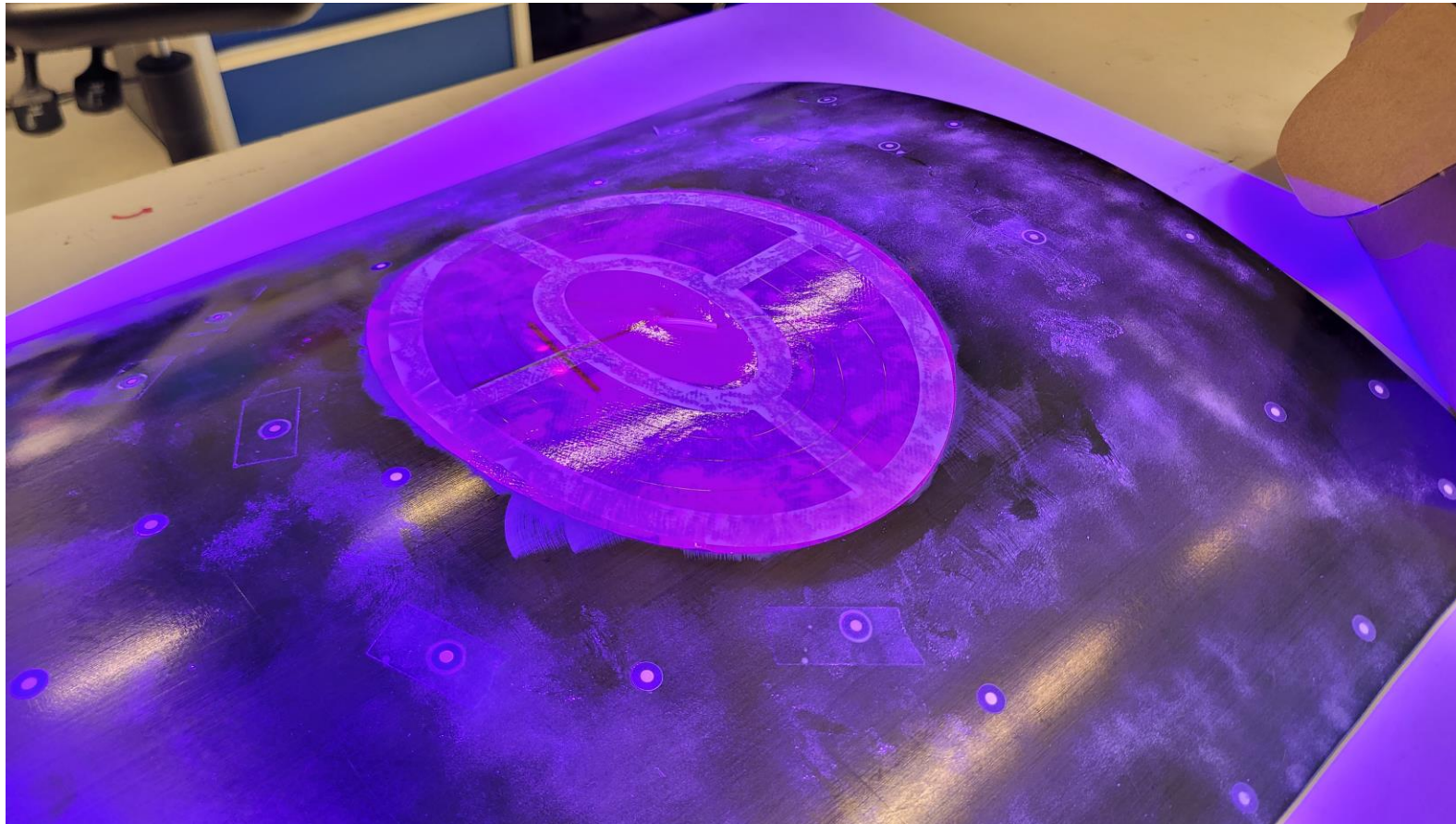
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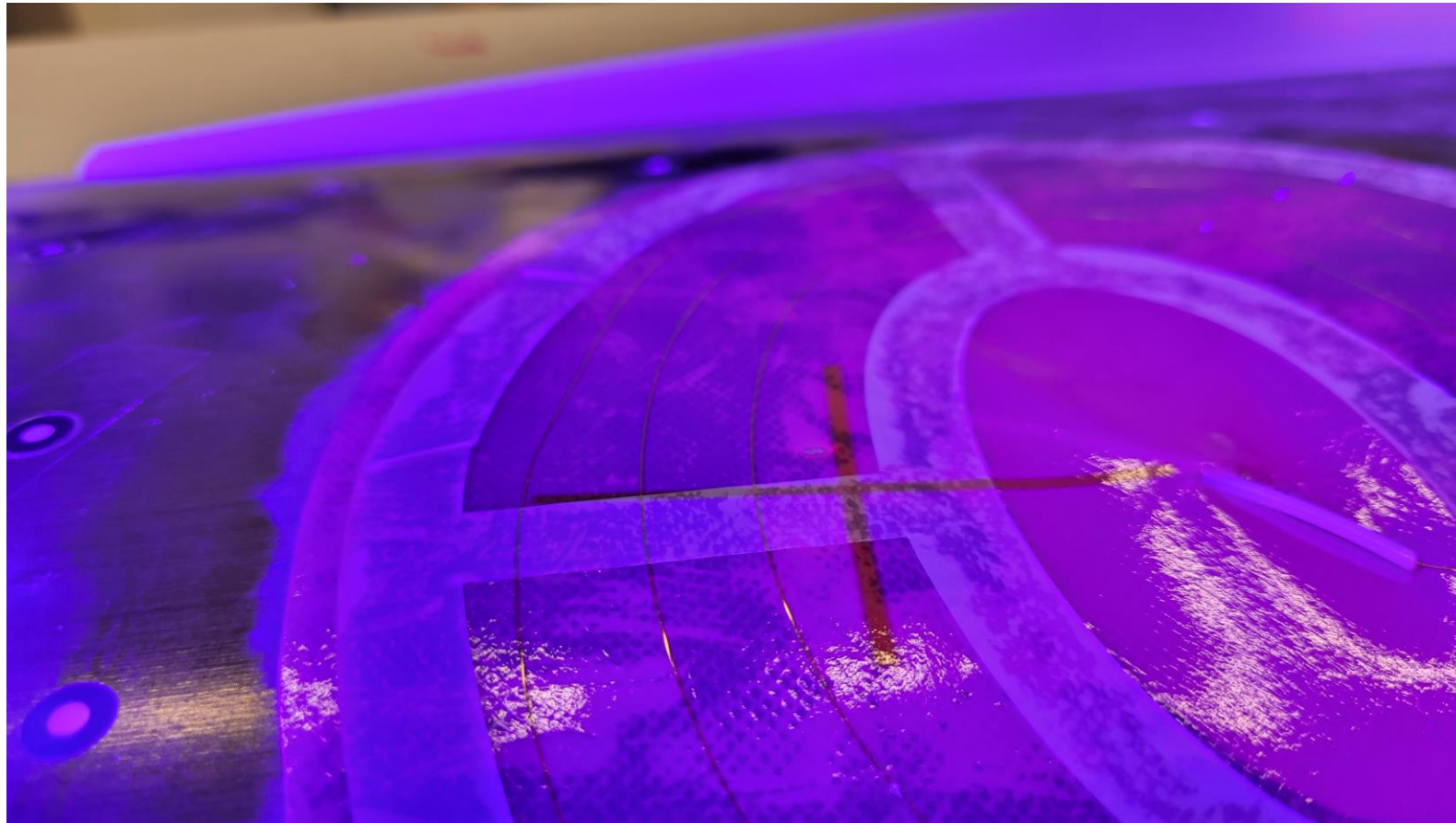
Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair



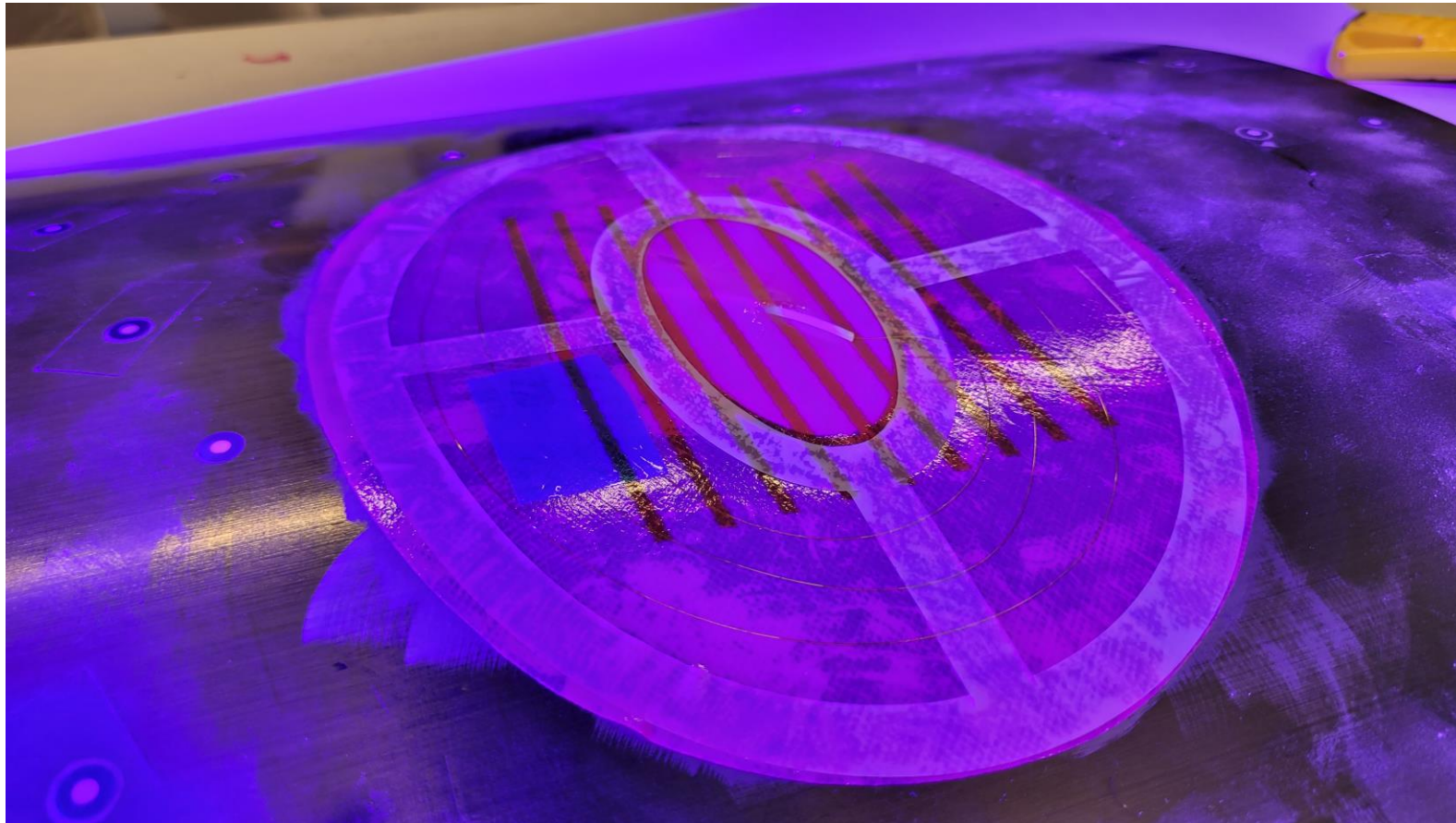
Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair



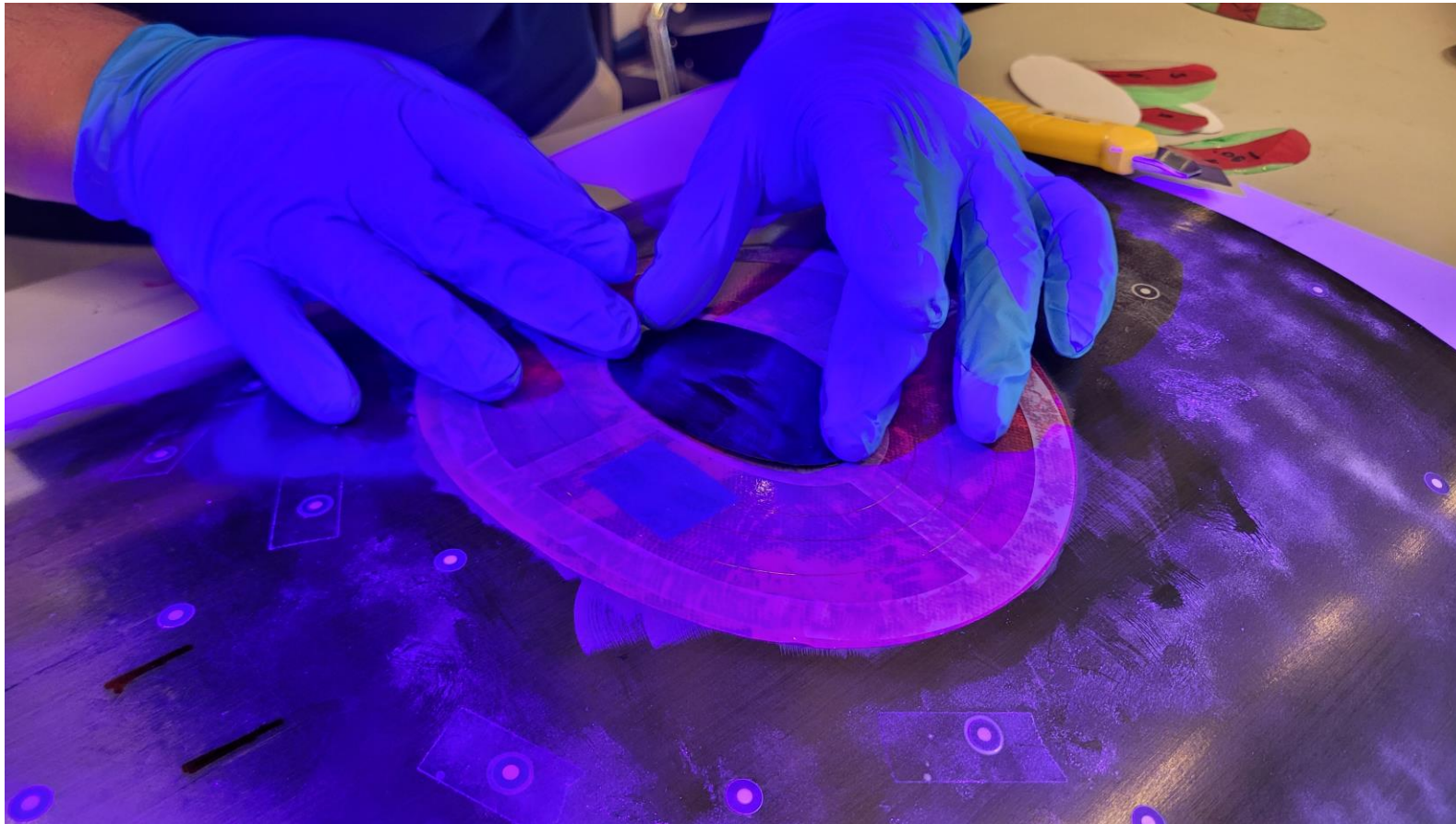
Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair



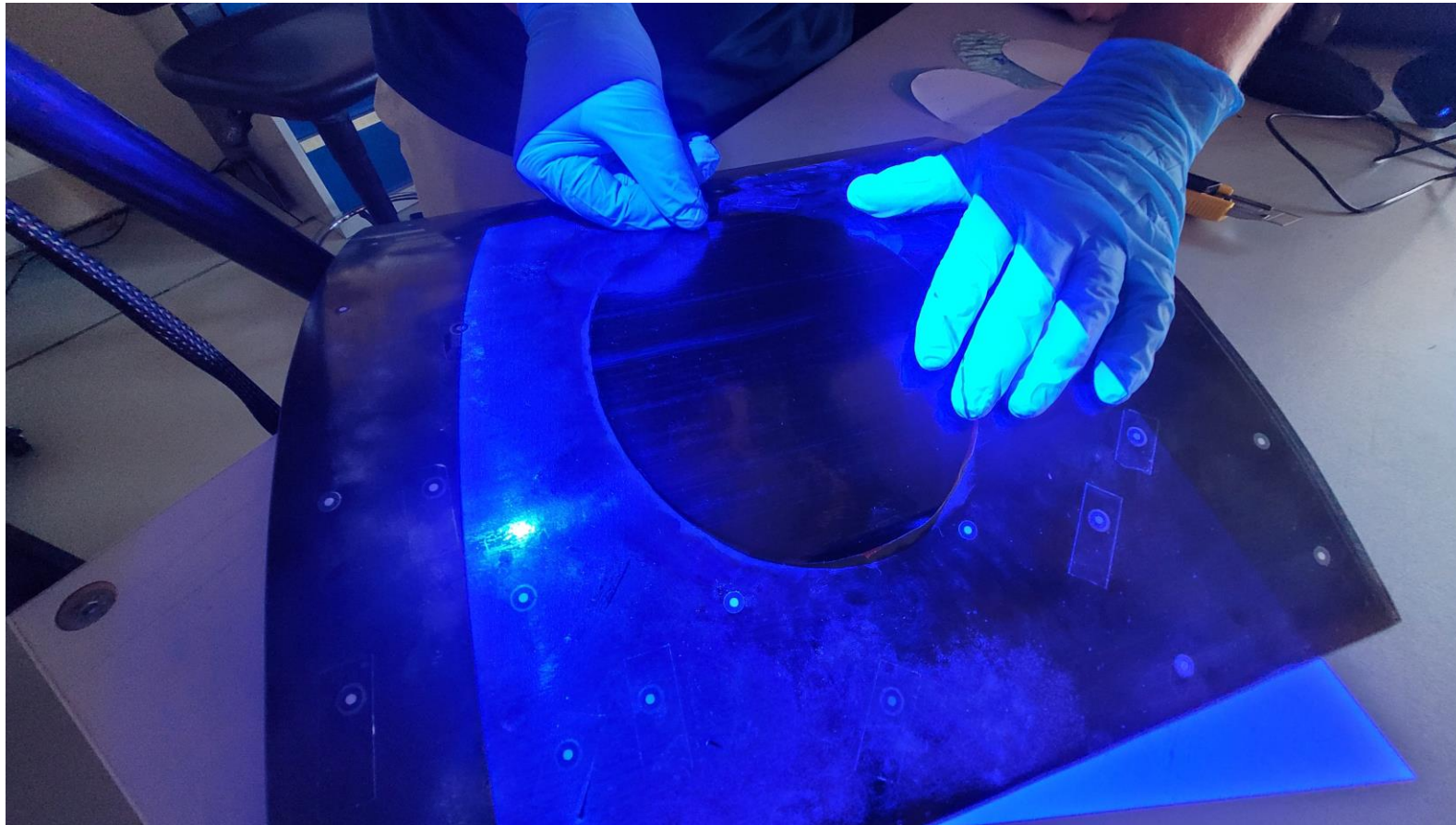
Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair



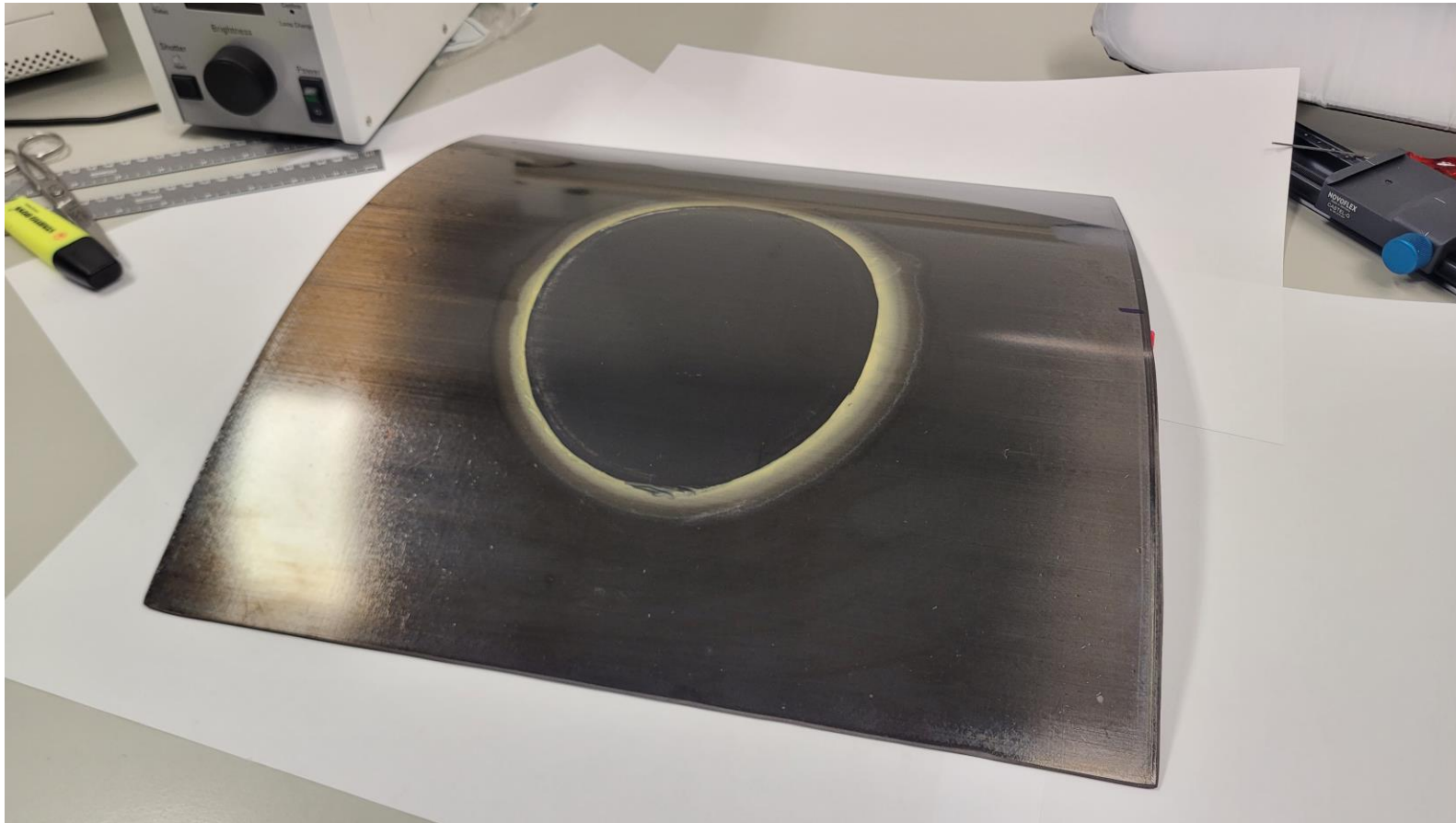
Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair



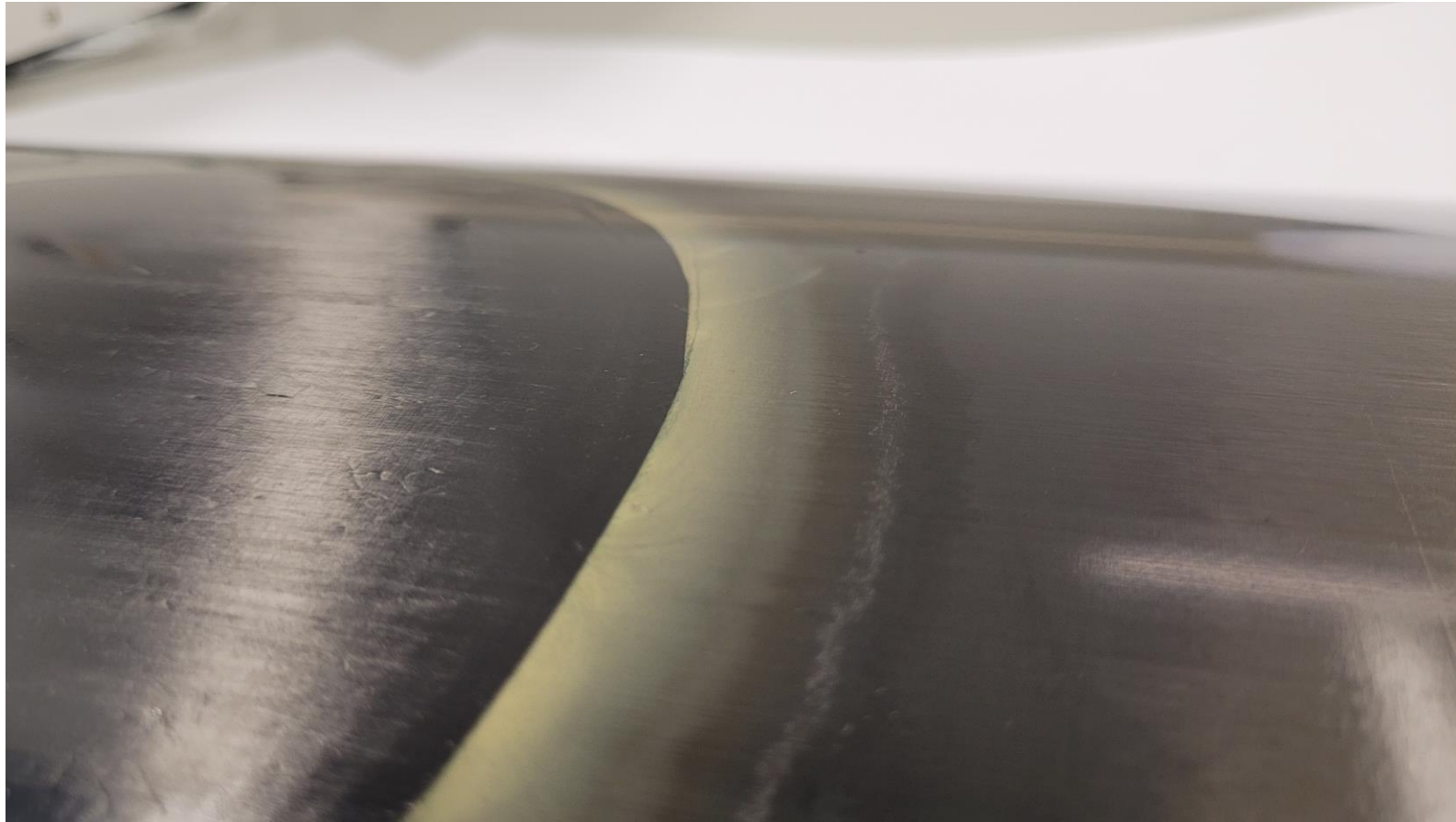
Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair



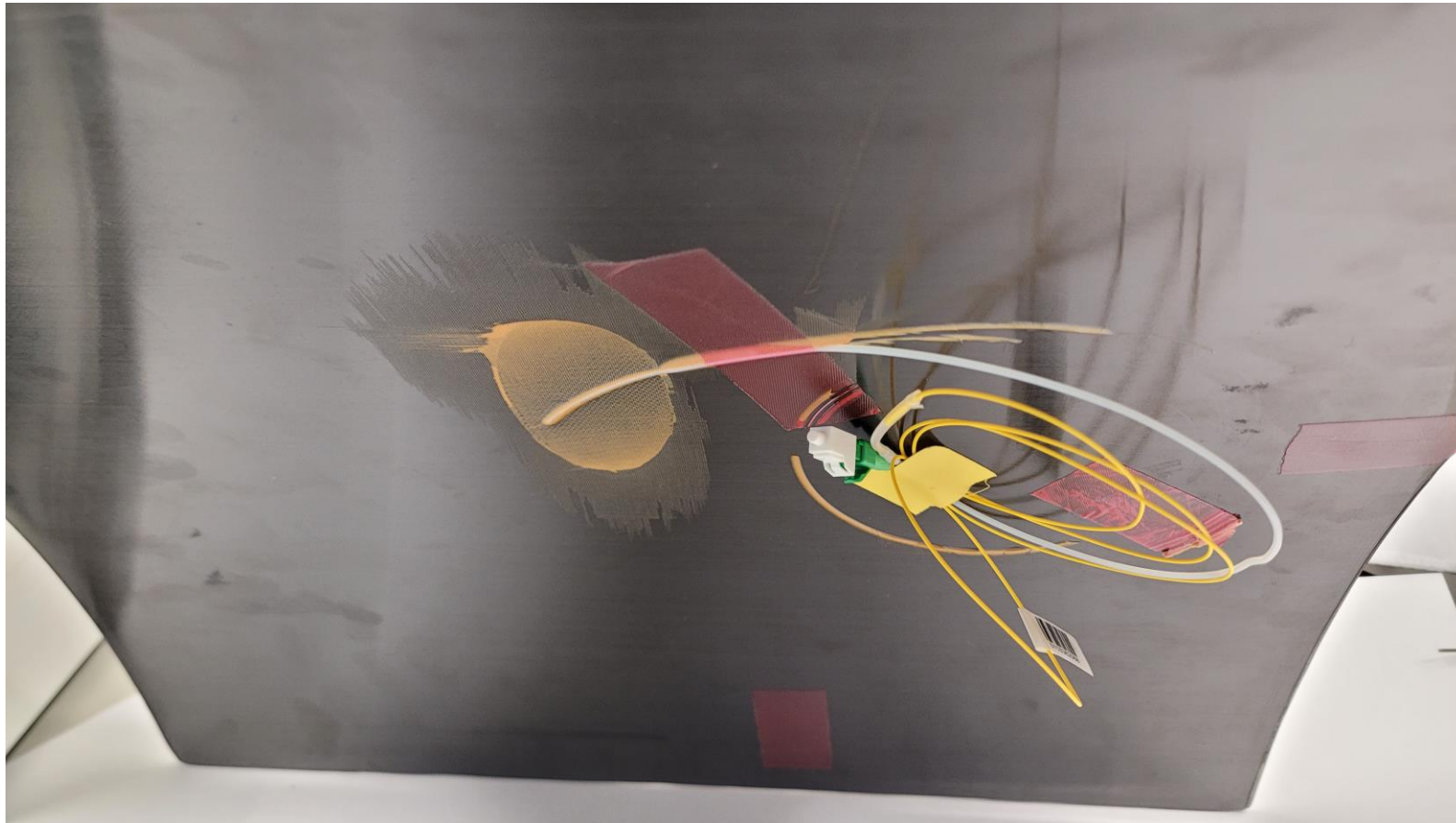
Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair



Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair

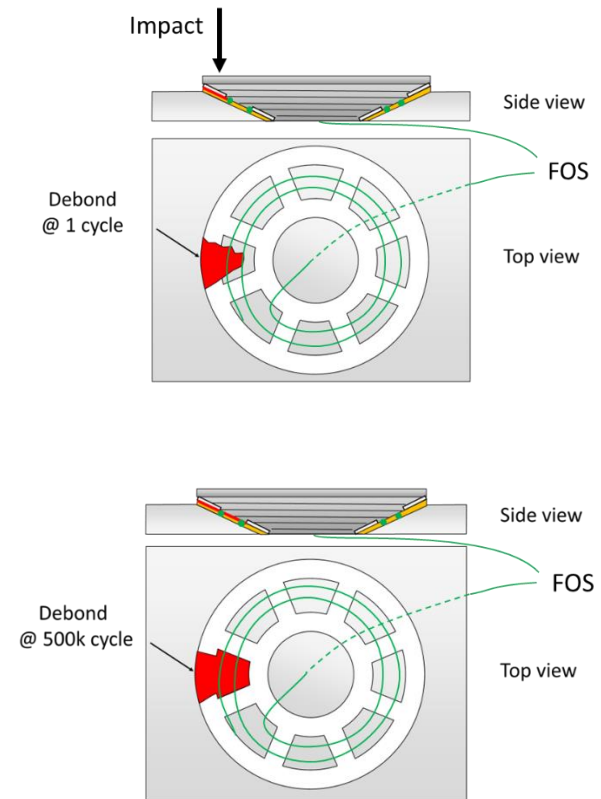


Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair



Smart and Robust Composite Scarf Repair

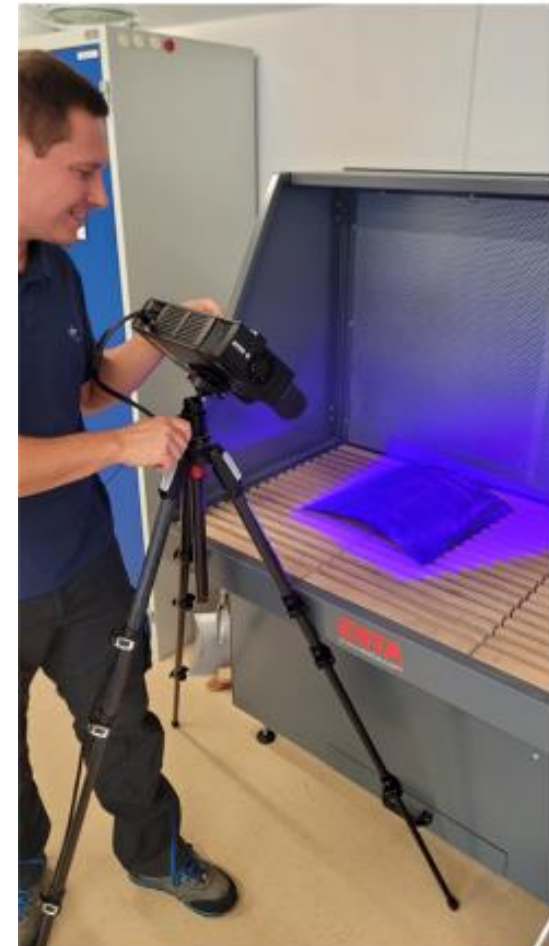
- Quality controlled and guided scarf repair by VAS
- Continuously measuring fibre-optic sensor (FOS) offering a highly accurate capability for monitoring crack propagation.
- Crack arrest function by thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU)



Conclusion -VAS

- Fully automatic scarf contour generation based on original aircraft surface
- Fully integrated user interface
- Augmented reality ready
- Validation tests successfully completed
- More realistic structures in shop floor environments upcoming

Input and Support appreciated!



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