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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Katcon acquires Exclusive License for Composite Automotive Body Parts from Magna Steyr

With effect of January 2016, the Mexican-based Automotive specialist Katcon Advanced Materials (Katcon) and Magna Steyr (Magna), a leading global, brand-independent engineering and manufacturing partner to automakers signed a 10-year-agreement regarding the exclusive license of Magna's „Crush Core Wetpressing technology for class-A-surface“ for the mass-production of Automotive body parts in Europe and the Americas.

Magna has developed this technology based on Polyurethane and paper honeycomb core together with two partnering companies, Hennecke and Rühl Puromer, with the aim to achieve cost-efficient and competitive lightweight series-production for class A surface. It is a direct process, out-of-tool and ready-to-paint and includes the tool and equipment engineering.

Sandwich components manufactured with the Crush Core Wetpressing Technology are up to 70% lighter than traditional parts made in steel or even aluminium and offer functional integration advantages like acoustic isolation or design freedom at vehicles front side. Further advantages are integration of passive pedestrian protection for head impact as well as protection of upper and lower leg.

The Class-A surface is demonstrated in perfection with the bonnet part. With its 7,2 kg, it weighs 1/3 of the steel solution, and has fewer parts. The technology is furthermore appropriate for external body panels or other semi-structural parts like tailgates, hang-on parts, floor panels or doors or even other industrial applications.

Katcon, an innovative global Automotive Tier 1 for exhaust systems, established in 1993, has made a multi-million Euro investment in composites with machinery from Hennecke, Engel, CMS and others to scale-up their production site in Poland and Mexico for large-series production of high-class composite parts, RTM and Thermoplastic Applications.

Fernando J. Turner, CEO Katcon Advanced Materials stated: „We are very excited to work with a wonderful company such as Magna Steyr on this project; this is a great addition to Katcon's product portfolio; we will help our clients reach their weight and emissions goals with this innovative technology, and grow our strategic position as world-class supplier for Automotive body panels and other industrial applications. We will now approach in a team with AMAC, Katcon and Magna targeted OEMs and Tier1s to bring these solutions to market. Our partners: Germany-based M-TEC for technical support, and US-based Innavin for business development in North America, will continue to lead efforts on those fronts, and

will be integrated to this particular project, so they keep improving our chances to best serve our clients.”

Dr. Michael Effing, CEO of AMAC GmbH and Katcon’s business development partner for Europe confirms: „With the ability to do complex body panels in Automotive and achieve mass-production of parts above 100 000 units per year, this technology is extremely innovative and future-oriented. The technology is very cost competitive compared to steel and aluminium equivalents (up to 10% cheaper). The achieved weight savings ensure the significant reduction of CO2 emissions.“

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About AMAC

AMAC GmbH is an Industrial and Business Consulting Company in the field of lightweight construction materials, based in Aachen, Germany. The business model of AMAC is based on three pillars: establishment and development of networking and clusters between universities and industrial companies, training in Sales and Marketing excellence, as well as Management of Industrial projects in the field of innovations, business development and and commercialization.

Dr. Michael Effing is Chairman of the board of the trade associations Composites Germany and AVK.

www.amac-international.com

About KATCON Advanced Materials

Katcon Global, headquartered in Monterrey, Mexico, is a strong OEM and Tier 1 supplier to the Automotive industry for emission and exhaust systems since 1993. Today, Katcon operates in 10 countries, supporting over 60 OEM and Tier 1 customers globally. Building on its long term tradition and success in developing, designing, testing, engineering and manufacturing, and in line with its “Vision of a Clear Sky“, Katcon has decided to launch its new strategic business unit, "Katcon Advanced Materials", focusing on lightweight automotive structural components and aircraft interior parts. Katcon is committed to help its customers make lighter, more fuel efficient vehicles and achieve their mandatory CO2 emission targets, maintaining its commitment of lean structure and cost competitiveness. In order to be a world class supplier, Katcon Advanced Materials has invested in the best technology and formed partnerships with some of the best technical teams in the field of composites, such as AZL, AMAC, M.Tec, based in Germany. To start operations, Katcon acquired the latest advanced manufacturing technologies: high pressure RTM, thermoplastic injection moulding and thermoforming. The first advanced materials manufacturing plant is in Monterrey, Mexico, with easy and cost effective JIT access to North American clients and with favorable ocean freight costs to Europe and Asia, further production facilities are planned in Europe.



Signing the exclusive license (from left to right): Mr. Fernando Turner (CEO Katcon Advanced Materials) and Mr. Günter Wolfsberger (Product Manager Reinforced Plastics at Magna Steyr Fahrzeugtechnik)