

Business from technology

FIRE-RESIST - Developing Novel Fire-Resistant High Performance Composites

Project overview E-LASS kick-off meeting 8.-9.10.2013 @ SP Antti Paajanen, Tuula Hakkarainen, VTT







- EU FP7 research project for 2011–2014
 - total budget of 7.7 M€
 - coordinated by University of Newcastle
 - 18 beneficiaries, including transport sector companies (rail, aeronautic and maritime), material manufacturers and research organizations
- The overall goal of FIRE-RESIST is to

develop novel, cost effective, high-performance, lightweight polymer matrix composite materials with a step-change improvement in fire behaviour

Five specific S&T objectives







<u>Objective 1</u>: multi-micro-layered structural composites that provide a step-change improvement in fire behaviour

 Micro-layered structural materials that are designed to delaminate extensively when exposed to heat, thus generating a fire barrier of exceptionally low thermal conductivity





<u>Objective 2</u>: hybrid thermoset composites that provide a step-change improvement in fire behaviour

 Hybrid thermoset composites that are polymeric at normal temperature, but which decompose under fire to provide highly protective ceramic char phases





<u>Objective 3</u>: high char polymer matrix composites derived from natural sources that provide a step-change improvement in fire behaviour

- Development of mainly glass fibre reinforced composites with enhanced char-producing capabilities
- Use matrices from natural and sustainable sources, most notably those involving furan and lignin-based precursors
- Target is to achieve high yields of char (40–60%) in fire conditions



<u>Objective 4</u>: particle-doped polymer fibres for fireretarded commingled composites

 Commingling of particle-doped polymer fibres and conventional fibre reinforcements for the highly efficient dispersion of fire retarding particles within a composite



Particle-doped fire retarded polymer fibres



Fibre reinforcements (carbon or glass)



Commingled polymer / reinforcement fibre preform



High-performance fire-retarded fibre reinforced polymer part



8

<u>Objective 5</u>: advanced multi-scale simulation of polymer matrix composites in fire

- Simulation methods for the response of polymer matrix composite materials and structures to fire
- CFD-FEA coupling methodology
- Material models for the fire and structural simulations
- Experimental validation of the full simulation chain













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