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Press release



# Solvay partners with iCOMAT, developers of game changing composite processing technology

Solvay's partnership with iCOMAT will accelerate the commercialization of their patented Rapid Tape Shearing technology

Atlanta, Georgia, USA, October 25, 2023

Solvay is partnering with Bristol, UK based start-up [iCOMAT](#) who has developed [Rapid Tape Shearing \(RTS\)](#), a truly disruptive material deposition technology that will revolutionize the design and manufacture of composite parts, answering the industry's need for lighter and more cost efficient composite structures.

RTS is the world's first industrial manufacturing process that enables defect-free steering of wide composite tapes, enabling precise tailoring of the fiber orientation at any point of a composite material part and providing unprecedented levels of structural efficiency. This means less material deposited enabling lighter and more cost effective parts than ever before.

Steering makes it possible to control fiber orientation during forming, reducing forming-induced defects and improving structural performance. By combining RTS-made steered blanks with Solvay's Double Diaphragm Forming (DDF) technology and rapid curing prepregs, reduced part weight and takt time can be achieved, providing the composite industry with solutions to achieving high volume part production.

"Solvay is focusing on accelerating the industrialization of composites through the development of high rate materials and processing technologies", said Marc Doyle, EVP Composite Materials Market, Solvay Composite Materials Global Business Unit. "This partnership with iCOMAT enables us to bring to market a groundbreaking solution that, when combined with Solvay's technologies, will change the way our customers approach part manufacturing. I am looking forward to seeing where this takes us".

Solvay and iCOMAT will work together to accelerate RTS' commercial exploitation using a new RTS pilot manufacturing cell to be operational in 2024 at [Solvay's Composite Material Application Center in Heanor, UK](#)

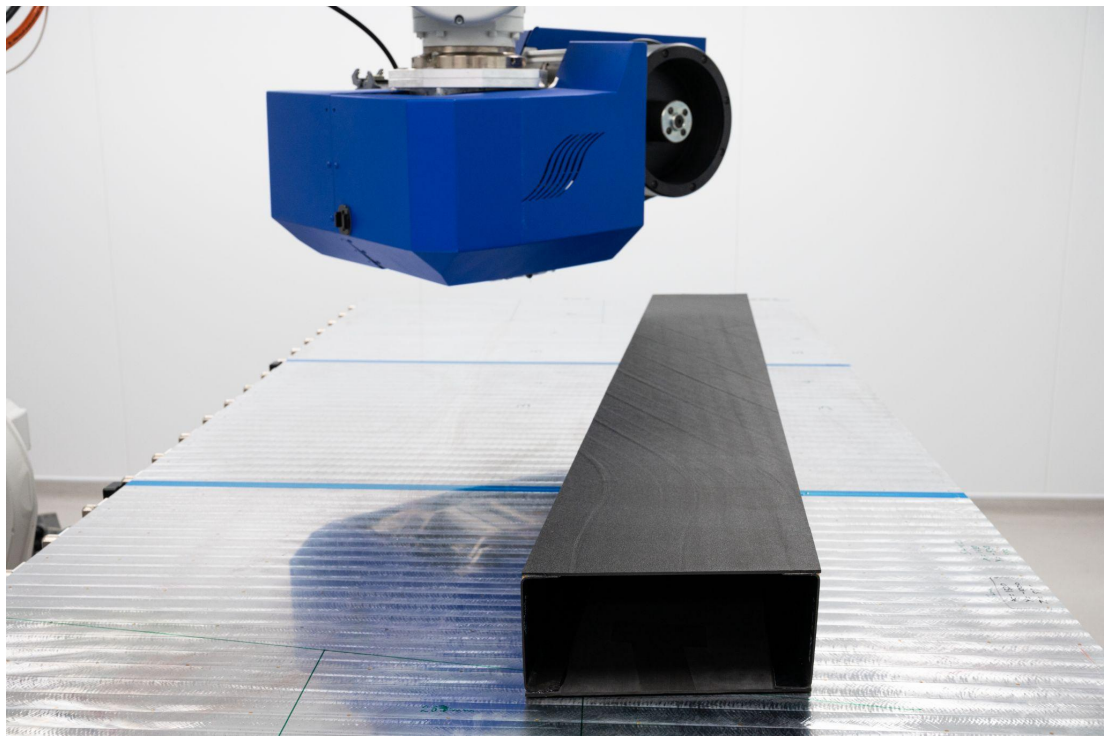
"Our vision at iCOMAT is to provide our customers with the lightest components possible, rapidly and at a low cost", said Evangelos Zympeloudis, CEO of iCOMAT. "Steering can drastically improve structural properties but the only way to achieve our vision is to unlock industrial rates and fully



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automated production. Our partnership with Solvay is key to that end as we aim to demonstrate the production of complex parts of exceptional structural efficiency. 2024 will certainly be an exciting year!”



Wingbox demonstrator manufactured using iCOMAT’s Rapid Tape Shearing (RTS) process and Solvay’s CYCOM® EP2190 unidirectional prepreg.

#### About Solvay

Solvay is a science company whose technologies bring benefits to many aspects of daily life. With more than 21,000 employees in 64 countries, Solvay bonds people, ideas and elements to reinvent progress. The Group seeks to create sustainable shared value for all, notably through its Solvay One Planet roadmap crafted around three pillars: protecting the climate, preserving resources and fostering a better life. The Group’s innovative solutions contribute to safer, cleaner, and more sustainable products found in homes, food and consumer goods, planes, cars, batteries, smart devices, health care applications, water and air purification systems. Founded in 1863, Solvay today ranks among the world’s top three companies for the vast majority of its activities and delivered net sales of €9 billion in 2020. Solvay is listed on Euronext Brussels and Paris (SOLB). Learn more at [www.solvay.com](http://www.solvay.com).



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#### About iCOMAT

iCOMAT's mission is to enable the next generation of cars, planes and spacecraft which are lighter and more sustainable than ever. Our breakthrough automated process unlocks the performance of carbon fiber and composites, offering unparalleled weight and cost savings. Light-weighting is more important than ever to reduce the emissions and cost for air, land and space travel (less fuel burn) and accelerate the electrification of fleets (fewer batteries). Our proven and patented technology delivers real-life production components of any size at industrial scale and low-cost and has been adopted by several blue-chip customers in aerospace and automotive. As a University of Bristol spin-out, we embrace thorough research to achieve innovative engineering solutions. Our passion fuels every bit of progress we achieve.

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